



Rec'd 29th Dec.

The Leader.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1854.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.

News of the Week.

THE obvious progress of the preliminaries to war consists this week chiefly in the issue of royal declarations, proclamations, and orders in Council, constituting the warrants under which the Queen's forces and servants will proceed to execute the national will. The levying of war is reserved by our constitution to the Crown, with some show of reason, while we do have a monarch, in that greater concentration of authority which lends so much efficiency to military proceedings. But it never was more evident than in the present affair that the Sovereign, although no cypher in the State, can only act through her Ministers; that her Ministers, although possessing full executive power, cannot possibly act without the concurrence of Parliament; and that, in fact, the present contest is undertaken by Crown and Parliament, with the full concurrence of every class of the people. The documents, therefore, are not simply royal, but national documents, put forth by the Sovereign as the chief servant of the State. They are, we may say, worthy of that majestic origin and of the great occasion which calls them forth.

Thus far they consist chiefly of six public documents. The first is a declaration by the Queen, that the negotiations with the Emperor of Russia have been broken off, and that her Majesty will proceed to take up arms, in conjunction with the Emperor of the French, for the defence of the Sultan. This declaration incorporates an exceedingly simple, lucid, and truthful statement of the steps taken to persuade the Emperor of Russia to reason, of his successive rejections, and of the final repulsion which had at last brought the English Government to its resolve.

The next document is a declaration by the Queen intimating that the *bonâ fide* property of neutrals in ships at sea will not be confiscated, unless it consist of articles contraband of war; and that it is not the Queen's present intention to issue letters of marque for the commissioning of privateers. This order marks an immense step in the progress of civilization, and its influence even upon war. In this, as well as in all other steps, the French Government acts identically with that of England; and the American Government has notified to those of France and England that it will not recognize letters of marque. Thus from the three greatest powers in the world genuine com-

merce is assured of protection, even during war; and the old piracy of the privateer's trade is extinguished.

The third document is an order in Council authorizing "general reprisals" of ships and goods belonging to the Czar and his subjects; the condemnation to be carried out under the authority of the Courts of Admiralty. The fourth is an order in Council authorising the seizure of Russian ships, subject to special licence in particular cases. The fifth is an order qualifying the previous one, by allowing merchant-ships six weeks for clearing out. The sixth a proclamation regulating the distribution of prize-money amongst the Queen's forces, with certain allotments for allied forces.

It has also been intimated that Russian subjects both in France and England, who conform to the laws of those countries, will be permitted to continue their residence.

The declaration of war was anticipated by a message to both Houses of Parliament on Monday evening.

The latest intelligence from Turkey is somewhat untoward, though it is still open to explanation. The story is that the Russians have crossed the Danube at Oltenitz, and have established a position on the right bank, with "immense" slaughter of the Turks. Another story is that, partly succeeding in one place, they have been repulsed at another. But thus far it is evident that the accounts are very imperfect, exaggerated, or, in some cases, twisted even to falsehood. It is, for example, most improbable that Omar Pasha could have been open to any surprise; and, whatever may have been the partial reverses sustained by his troops, it is not probable that the Russians have been able to effect any complete reverse of his position strategically. In the present stage of affairs, it is quite certain that any damage to Turkey will have no effect but to hasten the advance of her allies.

They were not very far off: 4,000 French troops were expected to land in Gallipoli on Monday; and the considerable body of our troops which has been exercising the Minié rifle at Malta would arrive about the same time. Sir Charles Napier, too, appears to have established his position in the Baltic, with all that he wants before the actual commencement of hostilities.

The Blue-book order of papers also contributes its stirring incidents. Few of the recent events have been so interesting as the publication of the further papers,—*"Correspondence relating to the*

Rights and Privileges of the Latin and Greek Churches in Turkey"—in continuation of the correspondence which, under that remote title, really tells the story of the quarrel between Russia and the Western Powers respecting Turkey. This new correspondence continues the tale from the Orloff proposition to Austria, at the end of January last, to the very close of the negotiation. It shows how the Emperor of Austria found the Emperor Nicholas demanding engagements of co-operation under the name of neutrality, while his emissary positively confessed that the Emperor of Russia "would take no engagements" on his own part! On discovering the nature of the extraordinary reciprocity proposed to him, the Emperor Francis Joseph appears immediately to have taken steps for increasing the guard upon his Transylvanian frontiers; and a few days later Count Buol suggested to the French Ambassador, that if England and France would fix a term for the evacuation of the Principalities, under threat of hostilities, Austria would support the summons. On the suggestion of M. Drouyn de Lhuys, Lord Clarendon immediately put the demand in the shape of a note direct to Count Nesselrode, fixing the end of April. The messenger called by the way to ask for the participation or support of Prussia, and after much Prussian vacillation he was sent on; the King's support following him. The reply of the Czar, who took almost the whole six days allowed to him, was: "The Emperor does not judge it becoming to give any reply to the letter of Lord Clarendon." The rejoinder of England appeared in the *London Gazette* of Tuesday. This correspondence, however, while it gives us the exact terms of the Russian refusal, shows that, after failing with England and France, Russia was again trying to entrap Austria. It also proves that the sincerity of Austria, in acting with the Western Alliance, had a substantial reason in the detection of Russian reciprocity; and it further unfolds the veil over poor, hesitating Prussia.

The illness of the King of Prussia, although strictly a personal matter, appears as if it might complicate political questions more than that of the Czar. It is not that the malady is in the head, while the Czar had the erysipelas in his legs; nor is it that the King is more obstinate in resisting his physicians than the Czar, whose dignity would not permit him to obey the prescription to give up his jack-boots; but there is something mysterious about the ailment of King Frederick William I. He goes into his garden at night—

what for nobody knows; and runs his head against a tree—how nobody knows. The Court explanation, that he is very short-sighted, hardly applies; since it is well known that darkness often affects short-sighted people less than others; and, at all events, men are usually cautious in moving about in the dark. There is, too, a curious precipitancy in supplying these explanations; as if other surmises were anticipated. Besides, the accidental blow in the face is sufficient to create severe bruises, and to lay the King on the bed of sickness. Some suppose that, independently of the ordinary cause that would be suspected, he is sick with vexation at the perplexed state of affairs; for he finds himself unable to side with his powerful brother-in-law the Czar, is summoned to more active alliance by his brother Emperor of Austria, but is himself too irresolute to agree, while he is unsupported by his own anti-Russian and liberal Ministry. The Chambers elected under his very limited constitution are calling out for a decided anti-Russian course; the English admiral is asking for pilots; and English ideas are at a premium in Berlin! No wonder that he feels perplexed, weary, sick at heart—that he should try to “support” himself, as people do when they are fatigued and bothered; and that possibly, supporting himself a little too much, he should, like vaulting ambition, “fall on the other side,” and thus render himself sick in body as well as heart. At all events, the actual position of Prussia is, that her Ministry is so manifestly a-head of her King, that her official organs are beginning to contradict themselves in breaking away from the royal reluctance; and that, at this trying hour, the poor King is obliged to take to his bed.

The position is not much better in Denmark; where the poor King with Russian sympathies is alarmed at a visit, bodily, by the British Admiral, and will not open his doors.

Nor is it better in Greece; where the Court, after having encouraged Russianizing intrigues, finds its people insurgent against its own authority as well as that of Turkey; and where the poor King is pinioned by the English and French Admirals to take his choice of putting down the rebellion or being blockaded.

The Duchy of Parma is released from its Duke and from the Duke's Prime Minister Groom, or Baron Ward, whom the Duchess Dowager's Ministers have banished. This release of the Duchy was affected by an unknown hand, which struck the Duke with a dagger in Turin.

From the United States the news is important. In Cuba, on the 28th of February, was seized a merchant steam-ship, on a groundless pretence of its having infringed the Customs' Law. This was the last feather that broke the back of American patience. President Pierce lays voluminous papers before Congress, calls for the ever-ready support of the Republic, and instructs Mr. Soule to demand redress in Madrid. It is not probable that Spain will be able to pay the bill of damages; and the American bailiff will probably take possession of Cuba within the twelvemonth.

Parliament has not been idle in the intervals of war business, although the work accomplished is less satisfactory than that of some previous weeks. The Opposition succeeded in throwing over, until the 24th of April, Mr. Baines's Bill for amending the law of Settlement and Removal, by abrogating compulsory removal, on the plea of last week, that more time is necessary to consider the new proposition for extending the main provisions of the Amendment Bill to Ireland, in a future measure. Mortified by the delay, and by the remark that the Irish branch ought to have been excluded in the earlier statement; offended, also, at Lord Palmerston's having promised the Irish supplement without consulting him, Mr. Baines resigned his post as President of the Poor Law Board; a resignation which threatened further delays of the bill. But his anger was

appeased, and he resumed his place conditionally.

The third reading of the Income-tax Bill, with idle Opposition twaddle; the further debate of Lord Blandford's bill to place Episcopal and Capitular property under a commission of management; the slow success of Mr. Thomas Chambers in appointing a committee to consider the necessity of further protection for women in convents; the Irish debate on the delays of postal communication with Dublin—resultless for the time, are among the incidents.

The debate of last night afforded the Opposition another opportunity for impeaching the Government, of which they were not slow to avail themselves. The wordy war continued many hours, and resulted, of course, in unanimity. The composite party out of office, the Brights, Layards, and Disraelis, had their say, expended their eloquence, their sarcasms, their indignation, and their nonsense, and unable to do otherwise, concurred in the address. In both Houses the old topics were revived: the war might have been avoided, it was a coalition war; what is it for? There are discrepancies between speeches and despatches; we have betrayed the Turks by delay; Lord Aberdeen has connived at Russian aggression, and so on. Of course Mr. Bright's calculation of the cost of war, and elaborate proof of the cheapness of peace with national dishonour, were not wanting. The literary excellence of the display was high; and the House enjoyed that, admired its possessors, cheered their eloquence, laughed at their wit; but preferred the practical statesmen at the helm. The strong Ministry has lost nothing by the exhibition of the intellectual agility of its disaffected and isolated adversaries.

The progress of the Committee on Breach of Privilege is peculiar; for the chief result of the inquiry, as it proceeds, appears to consist in constantly accumulating proofs that the case is a farrago of unsubstantial scandals, with a grain of truth grossly perverted and exaggerated, to make something like that modicum of “fact” out of which the wildest fictions are constructed. Knowing nothing of Mr. Keogh, having no particular sympathy with his position in office or in Parliament, we must confess that his explanation of the charges against him, while it appears to acquit him, appears also to damage his accusers even more for the amount of truth in the original accusation. Some assistance in money was furnished by a friend to promote his election; both of them participating with other people, in desiring a triumph for the Peelite party; accommodation bills passed, and out of these was vamped up a monstrous tale that Mr. Keogh had victimized his friend, and had evaded his liabilities. The friend's son obtains a post under Government, and that becomes “the way in which Mr. Keogh pays his debts.” To prove this last item, a memorandum by the friend's son was put in; it purported to bear the date of March, 1853; the handwriting and the post-mark proved that the date had been fraudulently substituted for that of 1852! The greatest of all Irish scandals of the day is formed by this inquiry, and those who got it up; and the evidence laid before the committee is not the only atrocious disclosure of private communications which have come to our knowledge.

Cowell and his coadjutors have been brought up for trial at Liverpool, on the charge of “conspiracy” at Preston; but the trial has been postponed, and we have very great doubt whether it will ever come on. Certainly it will not if the masters be discreet. If they should persevere, the working classes will have a splendid opportunity, by contributing to the defence fund, of showing that whatever may be the particular dispute at Preston about wages, the attempt to snatch victory and vengeance through a perverted use of the conspiracy law will be defeated by the support that the English working classes will give to the martyrs in their cause.

PARLIAMENT OF THE WEEK.

The sittings of both Houses this week will be memorable in the history of Europe on account of the Message which, on Monday, the Queen sent down to both Houses, announcing war with Russia. At an early hour the ladies' galleries in the House of Lords were filled with peeresses, and the space below the bar was crowded with gentlemen. The Lord Chancellor occupied the woolsack. Both on the Treasury and Opposition benches, as well as on the cross, or neutralized seats, the Ministers and the leaders of the Opposition sections were in force. Soon after five o'clock Lord ABERDEEN, advancing to the table said—“A message from the Queen, my Lords.” The message was handed to the Lord CHANCELLOR, who read it aloud to the House, amid complete silence:

“VICTORIA REGINA,

“Her Majesty thinks it proper to acquaint the House of Lords that the negotiations in which her Majesty, in concert with her allies, has for some time past been engaged with his Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias have terminated, and that her Majesty feels bound to afford active assistance to her ally the Sultan against unprovoked aggression.

“Her Majesty has given directions for laying before the House of Lords copies of such papers, in addition to those already communicated to Parliament as will afford the fullest information with regard to the subject of these negotiations. It is a consolation to her Majesty to reflect that no endeavours have been wanting on her part to preserve to her subjects the blessings of peace.

“Her Majesty's just expectations have been disappointed, and her Majesty relies with confidence on the zeal and devotion of the House of Lords, and on the exertions of her brave and loyal subjects to support her in her determination to employ the power and resources of the nation for protecting the dominions of the Sultan against the encroachments of Russia.”

Lord CLARENDON then said, “My Lords, on Friday next I shall move that her Majesty's most gracious message be taken into consideration.”

Of course Lord Derby and Lord Grey could not suffer the announcement to pass by in silence. Lord DERBY said—

“I only rise, my lords, to say that the noble earl having given notice of his intention to move that her Majesty's most gracious message be taken into consideration on Friday next, your lordships will be unanimously of opinion that this is not the time to say a single word as to the merits of the great and important question. On Friday next, in moving the answer to the address, the noble earl the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, or the noble earl at the head of the Government, will, I hope, take an opportunity of stating to the House fully, not only the causes which have led to the unfortunate rupture of our amicable relations with Russia, for with those we are partially acquainted, but that he will also state the precise objects that we have in view in entering on this war—the objects we seek to attain by it, and, if any, the conventions or other engagements which may have been entered into with France or the Porte to bind us to any specific object. If there are any such engagements, doubt they will be among the papers which her Majesty holds on the expectation of being laid before the House; and I will only express my hope that there is no truth in the report which has been circulated within the last few days, that in those conventions there are articles between us and France, and Turkey, which would be of a nature to establish a protectorate on our part over any portion of the Turkish dominions, as objectionable in principle as that on the part of Russia, which we have protested against. I will not say a single word more, as on Friday next the noble earl will no doubt lay before us such statements as will induce the House to concur in the address in answer to the gracious message from her Majesty, in regard to which it is not necessary for me to say that her Majesty will not rely in vain on the support of all classes and denominations of her subjects for the support of the honour and dignity of this country in a just, necessary, and honourable war—and in taking such vigorous measures as may be necessary to bring that war to a speedy and honourable termination.”

Earl GREY would only add that he trusted that in the answer to the message the Government would take care so to draw the address that there would be no difficulty in its being adopted—because, whatever their opinion might be as to the past, they must all concur in the desire that this address should be unanimous. He hoped the address would be so framed that no noble lord would find any difficulty in concurring in it, either on the ground that the war might have been avoided by abstaining from all interference, or might have been prevented if more vigorous steps had been taken at an earlier period. He hoped no difficulty would be interposed in the way of those who might not be altogether satisfied on either of those grounds, concurring in the address.

In the House of Commons the Message was brought up by Lord JOHN RUSSELL, nearly at the same time, and read by the Speaker. Lord John moved that the message should be taken into consideration on Friday, and, without further speaking, the motion was agreed to.

The Earl of MALMESBURY asked, on Thursday, whether there was any objection to lay the convention signed between France and England on the table of the House?

The Earl of CLARENDON said he was unable at present to lay that convention before the House.

It had been signed by her Majesty's ambassador at Constantinople and by the French ambassador; but in consequence of an oversight at Paris, the French ambassador at Constantinople had not full powers to sign it. It was, therefore, signed by the French ambassador provisionally. The consequence was, that that document was not formally complete.

GOVERNMENT DEFEAT.

Ministers were defeated, on Monday, in attempting to force the second reading of the Settlement and Removal Bill upon the House. Our readers will remember that the debate was adjourned from Friday to Monday by a narrow majority. When the debate was resumed, on Monday, Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in reply to Mr. WALPOLE, said that Ministers were not prepared to state their intentions with respect to Scotch and Irish paupers; and they did not look upon that as a reason for delaying the bill. However, when the motion for the second reading was put, Mr. PACKE moved that the debate be adjourned until the 24th of April. Mr. Packe was supported by the whole strength of the opposition. Mr. WALPOLE, Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, Lord GRANBY, Mr. ROBERT PALMER, Sir JOHN TROLLOPE, and others of lesser note, insisting that the subject should be treated as a whole, and that until Government stated its intentions legislation should stand still; admitting at the same time the right of Irish and Scotch paupers in England to irreparability, if that right were accorded to English paupers. Although they disclaimed party motives the combination looked very like one. The Irish members, represented by Colonel DUNNE, and later by Mr. MAGUIRE, held that Government had forfeited a pledge given to them, that the case of the Irish paupers should be included in the bill, and on that ground resolved to vote against Ministers.

Early in the debate Lord PALMERSTON stated the views of Ministers. He hoped that the House would affirm the principle of the bill, and after a tribute to the laborious and courageous services of the Irish in our towns, he said that the justice of an equal treatment for English and Irish was manifest. But further inquiry as regarded the latter was desirable, not only to obtain materials, but to remove unfounded prejudice. English gentlemen were afraid of a flood of Irish paupers; but how were they to come, and who was to send them? There were no public funds for such a purpose, and although he admitted that it might be accomplished by private subscription, a guard against that course might be contrived by making necessary a year's previous residence in the town where relief was sought. Further consideration of that part of the subject was desirable, but they should go on with the present bill. There would be nothing to preclude the house from subsequently entertaining the laws of Scotland and Ireland; and reading the bill the second time would not pledge members to proceeding further, unless assured that a safe measure would be introduced as to those countries.

Mr. MAGUIRE saw no chance of justice to Ireland if it were excluded from this bill, and he objected to part with the screw which the Irish members now had upon the Government.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL reminded the House that the course the Government proposed was no new one, but had been announced by Lord Aberdeen, who had stated that the Irish question must be dealt with, but that the present bill would not on that account be postponed. He was surprised at the slur Irish members sought to cast on the bill, as, if it were carried, the principle against compulsory removal would be affirmed in England, and then the claim of Ireland would be irresistible. If the bill were not carried, the Irish labourer would remain in his present condition, with the consolation only that the condition of the English labourer was unchanged.

The House then divided, and the numbers were—for adjournment, 209; against it, 183; majority against Government, 26.

A loud Opposition cheer followed the announcement of the numbers; and the debate was adjourned.

THE RESIGNATION OF MR. BAINES.

On Thursday morning the public were apprised that Mr. BAINES, the President of the Poor Law Board, had resigned his post. Naturally, parliamentary explanations were looked for, and on Thursday evening Mr. BAINES rose before the orders of the day came on, and requested to be allowed to state some circumstances relative to his connexion with the Poor Law Board and to the Settlement and Removal Bill. He had framed this bill, he said, upon the recommendations of the committee of 1847, and had confined its provisions to the abolition in England and Wales of removal on the ground of settlement. When he was asked whether the bill would extend to Irish paupers in England, he had replied distinctly in the negative. Two days before the day fixed for the second reading of the bill a memorial from Irish members of the House was presented to Lord Palmerston, praying that the opportunity might be taken to put the Irish pauper in England upon the same footing as to removal as the English pauper. A communication was made to the memo-

rialists that, in the opinion of the Cabinet, their wish ought to be complied with—this communication being made without Mr. BAINES being at all aware of it. He confessed that he felt somewhat hurt and mortified, but a little reflection served to convince him that no intentional disrespect was meant; and, if he had not arrived at that conclusion, he should have known his duty better than to have thrown up the important office he held at a time like the present. Yet, he could not help feeling that he was placed in a situation of great difficulty, more especially with regard to this measure. He had had deputations inquiring his intentions as to the removal of Irish paupers, and he had repeated that it formed no part of this bill; whereas it appeared that the Irish members had construed the communication they had received into a pledge that the bill should include Irish paupers, and others had put the same construction upon it. He had always been of opinion, and was so still, that the Irish question was not ripe for legislation, and, holding this opinion, he could not help thinking that, if he retained office, his efficiency and character as a public servant might be greatly impaired, and the measure itself endangered. Acting upon this ground, and this alone, on Tuesday he resigned his office. Having read a letter from Lord Aberdeen, requesting him to suspend his decision, Mr. BAINES went on to say, that he had reconsidered the matter, and determined to refer to two friends the question whether he could, with honour to himself, and without weakening his efficiency as a public servant, and without disadvantage to the public service, retain his office. They were of opinion that he could, and he had accordingly qualified his resolution, and consented to remain in office for the present.

Lord PALMERSTON paid a high tribute to the character of Mr. BAINES, assuring him that his colleagues would consider it a great misfortune to them and to the country if they lost the benefit of his exertions. Nothing could be further from their thoughts, he said, in the transaction than doing anything that could be supposed to indicate the slightest want of that regard and respect to which he was so justly entitled. So far from its having been the intention of the Cabinet that there should be a change in this bill, he had never for one instant considered that, with regard to Irish paupers, the change should be made in the same bill.

Mr. DUNCOMBE, Mr. PACKE, and Colonel DUNNE, paid high compliments to Mr. BAINES.

Mr. DISRAELI said, the statement of Mr. BAINES had left his honour untouched, and congratulated the country upon his retaining an office in which he had acquired the public confidence while administering a most unpopular law. It was a remarkable circumstance, Mr. Disraeli added, that within twelve months five members of the Administration had felt it their duty to resign office, and almost immediately to return their posts. He thought some machinery might be devised by which these internal bickerings might be terminated without being divulged to the country. A court of arbitration might be difficult to construct; but he imagined that recourse might be had either to the youngest bishop or to some retired diplomatist—there was Sir Hamilton Seymour—whose intervention might prevent the repetition of scenes always to be deplored.

THE NUNNERY QUESTION.

Mr. CHAMBERS again furnished the House of Commons with the theme for a night's debate, on Tuesday, by moving the names of the gentlemen to be nominated as a committee to make the required inquiry into the condition of convents and monasteries.

Mr. BOWEN moved that the order for the appointment of the committee be discharged; sustaining his motion by various arguments. In the first place he insisted that no time could be more unpropitious for insulting the Catholics than the present, when so many are called upon to fight the battles of their country. Yet this motion was an insult to the Catholics, and an imputation on their honour. Since the passing of the Emancipation Act its penal clauses had never been enforced, why is the subject revived now, and how is it that these institutions have suddenly become dangerous? Considered as a matter of law the appointment of a committee to inquire into a matter that may lead to a criminal prosecution is illegal; for inquiries concerning Magna Charta directed that all offences against the law should be according to the course of the common law. Then with respect to convents, surely they should be held sacred, and the ladies who inhabit them not dragged before a Parliamentary Committee. No case had been made out for such an inquiry. It is not true that convents have increased, nay, rather they have decreased (from 25 to 11) since the French revolution, while the increase of monasteries has only been in the ratio of the increase of the population. If the unenclosed orders have increased, that has been caused by the demand for education, especially in Ireland.

Mr. ESMONDE having seconded the amendment, and Lord LOVELL having made a speech in support of the original motion, Lord JOHN RUSSELL said he thought the House might well re-consider its deci-

sion. He agreed that no case had been made out for inquiry, and declared that he could not see what would be gained thereby. As for the stories about the convents, he did not believe one word; they were of the cock and bull kind—what the French call *histoires du coq à l'âne*—meaning by *l'âne* the person to whom the story is told. If he had to vote he should vote for the amendment.

Colonel NORTH told a story and read a correspondence, showing how one Miss Fitzsallan declared to the Banbury magistrates that she was confined in a house at Banbury and was about to be sent to Belgium, and demanded assistance, which the magistrates had no power to grant. The woman, however, escaped.

It was now dinner time, and the debate was wearily carried on by Mr. DRUMMOND, not so facetious as usual, Mr. CROSSLEY, Mr. NEWDEGATE, Mr. SPOONER, Colonel BLAIR, Mr. PACKE, all for the original motion, Captain BELLEW and Mr. FORTESCUE sustaining the amendment.

Mr. THOMAS CHAMBERS, characterising the amendment as unprecedented, repeated some of his old arguments in support of the motion, but stated no cases in detail.

Mr. OSBORNE rose at this stage, and made the speech of the evening. He was not long in getting right at the subject. The motion, he said, looked harmless; and he could easily imagine on the part of some gentlemen a desire to indulge their curiosity at the expense of the nunneries of England. Was the object of the motion one for inquiry, or was it not a direct attack on the Roman Catholic religion? Who were its promoters? No doubt people within and without the walls of Parliament are prejudiced in its favour; but Mr. Chambers had made himself the unconscious instrument of a wide-spread organisation—the Protestant Alliance and the Scotch Conference, which aim at the repeal of the Maynooth grant; and the exclusion of "Papists from Parliament," and from places abroad and at home. That is their declared intention, expressed in their resolutions. What did the House think of that?

But he should like to know on what Mr. Chambers rests his case. Where are the strong instances? The case quoted by Colonel North he had looked into, and found that the house was not an enclosed one at all. Miss Fitzsallan's name was Magan, she gave herself out to be the daughter of a noble lord behind him, who at the time of his alleged fatherhood was only ten years of age. She was an impostor. Yet these are the stories believed in by the country.

Lord John Russell had talked of cock-and-bull stories; now Mr. Osborne remembered that the hon. gentleman opposite—one of the twin members for North Warwickshire—on one occasion ventilated a story in that House of such awful dimensions that though challenged upon the subject he very conveniently forgot ever to refer to it since. The hon. member [Mr. Spooner] said on that occasion—"God knows what goes on in these places. I was the other day at Edgbaston, in my own immediate neighbourhood, where there was one of these establishments building. I inspected it, and found numerous cells fitted up for confining the unfortunate inmates." He would give the hon. gentleman the benefit of his "cells"—("hear, hear, and laughter")—but he recollected a very great sensation was created in the House by the statement, and he believed the division which followed was mainly influenced by it. He had made some inquiries into the matter, and it turned out that the hon. gentleman's cells were nothing more than ordinary cellars, and that what the hon. member thought was a cell for the flagellation of monks was no more than a ladder for hanging up mutton. (Great laughter.) The hon. gentleman had been imposed upon, and he had imposed upon himself. The building was connected with the oratorians, and was built in the ordinary way as an Oratorio; but so determined was the hon. gentleman to be deceived, that a drain which ran a particular way he insisted was a chamber of penance. This was one of those numerous cock-and-bull stories which had gone abroad, and which had been circulated in Parliament more widely by the hon. member for North Warwickshire than any one else. (Cheers and much laughter.) Sectarian rancour appeared to have one of the qualities of the elephant's trunk, nothing was either too large or too small for its grasp. The other day these clients of the hon. and learned gentleman went to the county of Sussex with a new device. There were a set of persons, it appeared, employed to go round the country to give lectures, by whom the most monstrous assertions were made, and in the remote districts of Sussex they were probably credited. He had in his hand a most extraordinary bill—printed no doubt by the printer of the Protestant Alliance—announcing a lecture at Hastings, and addressed to the friends of the revelation, and informing them that the "Rev. Theodore —, D.D., formerly infatuated, and archdeacon in the Roman Catholic church"—and the rev. gentlemen astonished the people of Hastings, who he supposed, were not very well versed in geography, by informing them that by the Pope's order he was sent to Siberia for reading the Scriptures. (Roars of laughter.) He had one year and eleven months had undergone great suffering, and been persecuted by pascities and popish priests—(laughter)—and that he had to appear before the Secretary of State accompanied by three English gentlemen. He had letters from several eminent servants of God, and would lecture on the 21st instant (the lecture was headed, "The Inquisition and Puseyism"), on which occasion the reverend doctor would be habited in his pontifical robes. ("Hear, hear, and laughter.") These were the devices and tricks by which people were deceived, and by which people out of doors were induced to put on the parliamentary screw which caused hon. gentlemen, contrary to their feelings and wishes to countenance motions like this. But that was not all. This society

had imported a baren—the county of Sussex was a favourite place for such things—he hoped the members for Sussex were present now. There was another bill announcing the appearance of a Baron de Gamen. (*Laughter and cries of 'gammon.'*) The Baron was to lecture on Mr. Chambers's motion on the 23d instant at Brighton. It appeared that there was a very full meeting, and the Baron lecturing upon nunneries advanced the most monstrous absurdities, and produced models of instruments of torture, said to be used in nunneries, and asserted that during the ceremony of taking the black veil the nuns were often smothered by the incense—(*laughter*)—and he stated cases in which they had been carried out dead. (*Laughter.*) A thrill of horror pervaded the meeting, and a gentleman challenged him to produce proof of facts, just as the hon. member for Hertford had been challenged here; and as he could not, the Baron got in a great passion; and a scene followed in which many females present supported the Baron, and one old lady distinguished herself by assaulting some ladies, supposed to be Roman Catholics, who occupied reserved seats—(*laughter*)—and at length the meeting broke up in great confusion."

Mr. Osborne showed that convents and monasteries have decreased; and he corrected a prevalent error by proving from Dr. Dollengen, of Munich, and General Radowitz that neither in Prussia nor Bavaria has the state the right of visitation to convents. Mr. Osborne wound up with these remarks:—

"They were going to send up stairs a set of polemical Paul Fry—(*laughter*)—who had already come to a foregone conclusion on this question, who would rummage out, what no doubt the hon. member for Hertford had already got in his pockets, extracts from old works against Jesuits, and the only result be a cry of 'No Popery;' and therefore he called on the House to pause before appointing the committee, and to vote for the amendment of the hon. and learned member for Dundalk. But if there was no objection to the expediency of this inquiry, surely this was a most inopportune time for such a motion. (*Cheers and counter-cheers.*) We were on the eve of war. ('Hear, hear,' and *ironical cheers.*) Well, then, we were at war; and, when there were hundreds of Roman Catholic sailors in our fleet, and thousands of Roman Catholic soldiers in our army, it was not wise or prudent to make them feel, as he knew they would feel, that this was an insult to their religion. (*Cheers and counter-cheers.*) He knew no deliberative assembly which, at such a period, had been guilty of such an absurdity. Yes, there was one assembly that did something like it; for Gibbon related that the council of the Greek empire was employed in a theological and philosophical discussion on the question as to whether the light upon Mount Tabor was created or uncreated, and each side was ready to sacrifice their opponents, when the enemy of civilisation, Mahomet the Second, was entering a breach in the wall of the capital of Christendom. It struck Mr. Osborne that they were doing something very like it. The enemy of all civilisation was even now striving to enter the same capital, and they were debating a motion for inquiring into religious houses; not with a view to inquiry, but in order to carry out the nefarious projects of the Protestant Alliance and the Scottish Conference; and any Roman Catholic who did not feel it to be an attack on his creed must be very different from what he took him for. He called on the House in the name of expediency, and in the name of justice, to support the amendment of the hon. member for Dundalk." (*Loud and long continued cheering.*)

Mr. WHITESIDE was put up to reply. He congratulated Mr. Osborne on the fact that office had not destroyed the force or the freedom of his expression. But he had treated a solemn subject with levity, and had met serious arguments with "bundles of rubbish," "silly paragraphs," and other absurdities.

Mr. DUNLOP said that Mr. Osborne was wrong in asserting that the resolution he referred to had passed the Scotch Convention; but he was followed immediately by Mr. FITZGERALD, who asserted that it was adopted at a great meeting at Edinburgh, where Popery was denounced in the most impious way.

After some more discussion, Mr. COGAN moved the adjournment of the debate; but the motion was rejected by 233 to 91. Then Mr. MOORE moved the adjournment of the House; that also was negatived by 223 to 59. Finally Mr. Bowyer's amendment was negatived by 177 to 120; and the nomination of the committee was adjourned till Thursday.

The greater part of Thursday night was taken up with discussions on the nomination of the committee. Mr. GOULD moved the omission of the name of Mr. Chambers—negatived by 117 to 60. Mr. LUCAS moved that the appointment of the committee be discharged. Before any division could be taken Mr. SCULLY moved the adjournment of the debate—negatived by 150 to 74. Mr. KENNEDY now moved the adjournment. The division was taken at half-past one—negatived by 121 to 68. Mr. MOORE then rose and moved the adjournment; and, wearied out, Mr. CHAMBERS consented.

INCOME-TAX.—On the third reading Sir JOHN PAKINGTON made a long dull speech, hashing up Mr. Disraeli's old orations about the balances at the Exchequer, and the knowledge Ministers had of Russian intentions. Mr. CARDWELL replied. Other speakers followed; but no division was taken, and the bill was read a third time and passed without opposition.

CHURCH REVENUES.—A fruitless debate on Lord BLANDFORD's Episcopal and Capitular Estates Bill took place on the second reading, on Wednesday. The bill proposes to vest the management of the property of bishoprics and chapters in the Church Estates Commissioners, paying bishoprics and chapters a fixed sum, and contemplating a gain of half a million by the arrangement, which would be applied in various ways for the benefit of the Church. Among its opponents are Mr. GOULBURN, Sir WILLIAM CLAY, and Mr. HENLEY, and among its supporters, Mr. HUME and Mr. HORSMAN. No member of the Cabinet was present,

having more serious work on hand, and after an unsatisfactory talk of several hours the debate was adjourned till the 8th of April.

MINISTERS' MONEY.—This Government bill passed through committee on Monday. It was gallantly contested and several divisions took place. The most important were these:—Mr. FAGAN moved that all houses under 20*l.* rent should be exempt from the tax; this was negatived by 92 to 77. Mr. HADFIELD repeated the motion, substituting 15*l.* for 20*l.*, with a similar result. It was fixed at 10*l.* Mr. JOHN O'CONNELL moved that houses the property of Roman Catholics should be exempt, but he was defeated by 92 to 71.

DUBLIN MAILS.—Mr. H. HERBERT, after an explanatory statement, moved, "That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, that she will be graciously pleased to give directions that immediate measures should be taken to give effect to the recommendation contained in the report of the select committee of that House, appointed in the last session to examine and report upon the present state of communication between London and Dublin; namely, 'that a class of steamers be provided with adequate accommodation for passengers, and with greater capabilities as regards speed than those at present employed.'"

Mr. VANCE seconded the motion. Mr. GLADSTONE reminded the House that postal communication with Ireland was regulated in accordance with the recommendation of a select committee, who advised that the contract system should be substituted for the Government performing the service itself. That recommendation had been acted upon in every case save one—the Dover passage—and in that case the change would take place on the 1st of April. The motion before the House was not really a "postal" question, but a "passenger" question, and not only a passenger question, but an "upper passenger" question—in fact, a demand to secure better accommodation, at a heavy expense to the public, for the special advantage of that class of passengers the best able to take care of themselves. To provide the accommodation aimed at in the motion, an immediate outlay of 300,000*l.* would be necessary, and an annual expenditure of 120,000*l.* This was not the time for entering upon such an outlay—a case of sufficient necessity had not been made out in its favour—and Mr. Gladstone called upon the House to negative the motion.

After remarks from Mr. FRENCH and Mr. COWPER, Lord NAAS urged that the motion had been opposed upon mistaken grounds. It was a question of improved postal communication, and not of passenger comfort or luxury; and the object could be effected at an outlay not exceeding 40,000*l.* per annum. Ultimately a division was taken, and the motion negatived by 208 to 152.

THE CONVENT INQUISITION.

THE following document has been issued, entitled "A Declaration of the Catholics of Great Britain to our Protestant Fellow-countrymen," and signed by several peers, and upwards of 300 Catholic gentlemen:—

"The undersigned desire it to be known that they regard the success of the motion of Mr. Chambers in the House of Commons as a direct attack upon the Catholic religion, and as an insult to those who profess it, no less than as an infraction of the religious toleration of which they are said to be assured by the constitution. They do not propose to argue a point which they believe to be clear to all intelligent and fair minds, and therefore content themselves with the declaration that they view the proposal of Mr. Chambers, however he may himself represent it, simply as a proof of hatred and fear of the Catholic religion, and of an ardent desire to impede its legitimate influence by persecution. The charges against the convents of women have long since been satisfactorily refuted, and if they were true the undersigned would be, of all persons, those most interested in procuring redress. To suppose them indifferent on such a subject would, in itself, be a grave imputation. The proposal to examine by a Parliamentary committee into the condition of monasteries, amounting, as it does, to the institution of a tribunal of inquiry with a view to the criminal prosecution of individual Englishmen, they can hardly believe to be serious. In any case there are sufficient constitutional and legal reasons for the rejection of this proposal, without calling upon Catholics to deal with it as a religious question. This statement is made in order that no misconception should exist respecting the sentiments of the Catholic body on a matter in which their rights of common citizenship are involved."

THE DECLARATION OF WAR.

(From the supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday, 28th March.)

It is with deep regret that her Majesty announces the failure of her anxious and protracted endeavours to preserve for her people and for Europe the blessings of peace.

The unprovoked aggression of the Emperor of Russia against the Sublime Porte has been persisted in with such disregard of consequences, that, after the rejection by the Emperor of Russia of terms which the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, and the King of Prussia, as well as her Majesty, considered just and equitable, her Majesty is compelled, by a sense of what is due to the honour of her Crown, to the interests of her people, and to the independence of the States of Europe, to come forward in defence of an ally whose territory is invaded, and whose dignity and independence are assailed.

Her Majesty, in justification of the course she is about to pursue, refers to the transactions in which her Majesty has been engaged.

The Emperor of Russia had some cause of com-

plaint against the Sultan with reference to the settlement, which his Highness had sanctioned, of the conflicting claims of the Greek and Latin Churches to a portion of the Holy Places of Jerusalem and its neighbourhood. To the complaint of the Emperor of Russia on this head justice was done; and her Majesty's ambassador at Constantinople had the satisfaction of promoting an arrangement to which no exception was taken by the Russian Government.

But while the Russian Government repeatedly assured the Government of her Majesty that the mission of Prince Menschikoff to Constantinople was exclusively directed to the settlement of the question of the Holy Places at Jerusalem, Prince Menschikoff himself pressed upon the Porte other demands of a far more serious and important character, the nature of which he in the first instance endeavoured, as far as possible, to conceal from her Majesty's ambassador. And these demands, thus studiously concealed, affected not the privileges of the Greek Church at Jerusalem, but the position of many millions of Turkish subjects in their relations to their Sovereign the Sultan.

These demands were rejected by the spontaneous decision of the Sublime Porte.

Two assurances had been given to her Majesty: one, that the mission of Prince Menschikoff only regarded the Holy Places; the other, that his mission would be of a conciliatory character.

In both respects her Majesty's just expectations were disappointed.

Demands were made which, in the opinion of the Sultan, extended to the substitution of the Emperor of Russia's authority for his own, over a large portion of his subjects; and those demands were enforced by a threat: and when her Majesty learnt that, on announcing the termination of his mission, Prince Menschikoff declared that the refusal of his demands would impose upon the Imperial Government the necessity of seeking a guarantee by its own power, her Majesty thought proper that her fleet should leave Malta, and, in co-operation with that of his Majesty the Emperor of the French, take up its station in the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles.

So long as the negotiation bore an amicable character her Majesty refrained from any demonstration of force. But when, in addition to the assembling of large military forces on the frontier of Turkey, the ambassador of Russia intimated that serious consequences would ensue from the refusal of the Sultan to comply with unwarrantable demands, her Majesty deemed it right, in conjunction with the Emperor of the French, to give an unquestionable proof of her determination to support the sovereign rights of the Sultan.

The Russian Government has maintained that the determination of the Emperor to occupy the Principalities was taken in consequence of the advance of the fleets of England and France. But the menace of invasion of the Turkish territory was conveyed in Count Nesselrode's note to Rechid Pacha of the 19th (31st) May, and re-stated in his despatch to Barn Brunnov of the 20th May (1st June), which announced the determination of the Emperor of Russia to order his troops to occupy the Principalities, if the Porte did not within a week comply with the demands of Russia.

The despatch to her Majesty's ambassador at Constantinople, authorising him in certain specified contingencies to send for the British fleet, was dated the 31st May, and the order sent direct from England to her Majesty's admiral to proceed to the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles was dated the 2nd of June.

The determination to occupy the Principalities was therefore taken before the orders for the advance of the combined squadrons were given.

The Sultan's Minister was informed that, unless he signed within a week, and without the change of a word, the note proposed to the Porte by Prince Menschikoff on the eve of his departure from Constantinople, the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia would be occupied by Russian troops. The Sultan could not accede to so insulting a demand; but when the actual occupation of the Principalities took place, the Sultan did not, as he might have done in the exercise of his undoubted right, declare war, but addressed a protest to his allies.

Her Majesty, in conjunction with the Sovereigns of Austria, France, and Prussia, has made various attempts to meet any just demands of the Emperor of Russia without affecting the dignity and independence of the Sultan; and had it been the sole object of Russia to obtain security for the enjoyment by the Christian subjects of the Porte of their privileges and immunities, she would have found it in the offers that have been made by the Sultan. But as that security was not offered in the shape of a special and separate stipulation with Russia, it was rejected. Twice has this offer been made by the Sultan, and recommended by the Four Powers: once by a note originally prepared at Vienna, and subsequently modified by the Porte; once by the proposal of basis of negotiation agreed upon at Constantinople on the 31st of December, and approved at Vienna on the 13th of January, as offering to the two parties the means of arriving

at an understanding in a becoming and honourable manner.

It is thus manifest that a right for Russia to interfere in the ordinary relations of Turkish subjects to their Sovereign, and not the happiness of Christian communities in Turkey, was the object sought for by the Russian Government; to such a demand the Sultan would not submit, and his Highness, in self-defence, declared war upon Russia; but her Majesty nevertheless, in conjunction with her Allies, has not ceased her endeavours to restore peace between the contending parties.

The time has, however, now arrived when, the advice and remonstrances of the Four Powers having proved wholly ineffectual, and the military preparations of Russia becoming daily more extended, it is but too obvious that the Emperor of Russia has entered upon a course of policy which, if unchecked, must lead to the destruction of the Ottoman Empire.

In this conjuncture her Majesty feels called upon, by regard for an ally, the integrity and independence of whose empire have been recognised as essential to the peace of Europe, by the sympathies of her people with right against wrong, by a desire to avert from her dominions most injurious consequences, and to save Europe from the preponderance of a Power which has violated the faith of treaties, and defies the opinion of the civilised world, to take up arms in conjunction with the Emperor of the French, for the defence of the Sultan.

Her Majesty is persuaded that in so acting she will have the cordial support of her people; and that the pretext of zeal for the Christian religion will be used in vain to cover an aggression undertaken in disregard of its holy precepts, and of its pure and beneficent spirit.

Her Majesty humbly trusts that her efforts may be successful, and that, by the blessing of Providence, peace may be re-established on safe and solid foundations.

Westminster, March 28, 1854.

The following Declaration is also published in the Supplemental Gazette:—

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, having been compelled to take up arms in support of an ally, is desirous of rendering the war as little onerous as possible to the Powers with whom she remains at peace.

To preserve the commerce of neutrals from all unnecessary obstruction, her Majesty is willing, for the present, to waive a part of the belligerent rights appertaining to her by the law of nations.

It is impossible for her Majesty to forego the exercise of her right of seizing articles contraband of war, and of preventing neutrals from bearing the enemy's despatches, and she must maintain the right of a belligerent to prevent neutrals from breaking any effective blockade which may be established with an adequate force against the enemy's forts, harbours, or coasts.

But her Majesty will waive the right of seizing enemy's property laden on board a neutral vessel, unless it be contraband of war.

It is not her Majesty's intention to claim the confiscation of neutral property, not being contraband of war, found on board enemy's ships, and her Majesty further declares that, being anxious to lessen as much as possible the evils of war, and to restrict its operations to the regularly organised forces of the country, it is not her present intention to issue letters of marque for the commissioning of privateers.

Westminster, March 28, 1854.

Three Orders in Council, and a Proclamation, were issued on Wednesday, relating to the conduct of the war, and considerably relaxing the harsh rules which it has been hitherto customary to enforce against an enemy. The first order authorises general reprisals against the ships, vessels, and goods of the Emperor of Russia, and empowers the Court of Admiralty to adjudge and condemn prizes. The second prohibits British ships to enter or clear out of British ports for Russian ports. The third orders that Russian merchant vessels shall be allowed six weeks, from the 28th March, to load and depart from British ports; and that such vessels met at sea, shall, on showing that they sailed prior to the date of the order, be permitted to go without molestation; and that such ships, which prior to the 28th of March, sailed from a foreign port for a British port, shall be permitted to land their cargoes and depart without molestation for any port not blockaded. The Proclamation regulates the distribution of prize-money, and provides that the ships of allies, acting in conjunction with a British squadron, and ships in sight, shall share in the prizes.

WAR ARMAMENTS AND PREPARATIONS.

GALLI POLI appears to be the point on the Turkish coast which has been selected for the landing both of the French and British contingents. As will be seen on reference to the map, it is very conveniently situated for that purpose. It can be easily defended against any land attack, and troops stationed there

could with great facility be marched to Adrianople, or embarked on the Sea of Marmora and landed at any part of the Black Sea coast where their presence might be required. The regiments belonging to the expeditionary army still in England will now, of course, proceed direct to Gallipoli without stopping at Malta. The *Moniteur* has the following paragraph:—

"The English Government has just given orders to the English troops assembled at Malta to depart for Gallipoli. The French Government sent 4000 men there a few days since, and they probably arrived on the 27th. Vessels having on board 15,000 men have, within these few days, sailed from the coasts of France and Algeria. Other vessels will be despatched immediately with the rest of the army, which, to the number of more than 50,000 men, will be assembled in Turkey by the commencement of May."

"The Minister of War has taken such steps as will enable this army to be increased as circumstances may require."

It is said that Sir D. L. Evans will command the 5000 men destined for a "special service."

The cavalry regiments proceeding to the East through France are each expected to occupy about nine days after crossing the Channel in proceeding to Marseilles. As the railway communication between Chalons and Avignon is incomplete, about seven days will be spent on the march, and it is believed that this will be found a useful preparatory training both for men and horses before they enter upon active service. The large number of transports that would be required in conveying the force entirely by sea is, we understand, the chief reason for the selection of this route. Those who are anticipating a military display on the occasion of the English cavalry passing through Paris will probably be disappointed, as, according to present arrangements, the troops will proceed on their journey by squadrons.

It is rumoured that, in addition to the late augmentation of the army, there is to be a further increase of 30,000 men, and that the first division of the expeditionary force at Malta is now being rapidly moved on to Constantinople.

The latest accounts from Malta state that the force there assembled amounted to upwards of 10,000 men. Every day the Guards were exercised with the Minié rifle; paraded, drilled, and kept well disciplined. The French General Canrobert had arrived with 800 men, who were loudly cheered by the British troops.

When Sir Charles Napier landed at Copenhagen he was not received by the King, but by the Foreign Minister. He returned to Wingo Sound on the 21st; on the 27th the fleet anchored at Nyborg; on the 28th it was at Kiel; and the next day sailed for Kjøge Bay, near Copenhagen. The latest news is that "the fleet of Sir Charles Napier is again under weigh, and there is no doubt but the first point of attack will be the island of Aland. The *on dit* in the fleet affirms that an officer high in command ventured, in a conference with Sir Charles Napier, to argue against attacking Aland, saying that great carnage must occur in such an attack by ships without troops, there being about seven thousand Russian soldiers in garrison on the island. The answer of Admiral Napier is stated to have been very characteristic. 'If you think so, you had better go home again.' The impression in the fleet is that Aland will be the scene of their first operations. It is stated that the Russian squadron has left Revel, but it is not known where they have gone. The current opinion in Stockholm is that the Russians will not meet Sir C. Napier's fleet. It is added that the Russian force of shipping is much over-rated. All the crews of our ships go to general quarters daily, and are practised at the great gun exercise in firing at targets, and in ricochet firing at any small rocks or islands they may be near."

The sailing ships, *St. George*, 120, and *Prince Regent*, 90, the *Hecle*, 6, the *Cesar*, 91, and the *Conflict* 8, have left this week for the Baltic. The French screw, *Austerlitz*, 100, passed the Downs on Monday. The *James Watt*, 91, left on Thursday morning for the Baltic; but was compelled to put back, her bilge injection pump being useless.

The entry of landmen, between 19 and 24 years of age, standing 5ft. 6in. in height, for service in the navy, is resumed.

On Thursday the Admiralty gave notice at Lloyd's that transports were required for the conveyance of 113 pieces of ordnance to Constantinople, the guns weighing 342 tons. Upwards of 59 tons of anchors and chain cable, for the use of the Black Sea fleet, are to be transmitted at the same time.

MORE PAPERS ABOUT TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

MINISTERS presented, on Tuesday, additional documents to Parliament, showing the recent negotiations with Russia, leading to the summons to evacuate the Principalities, and terminating with the answer given to that summons by Count Nesselrode to the English Consul.

Our readers know already the nature of the propositions made by Count Orloff to the Emperor of Austria, and their rejection by Austria and the Conference. The interest of that transaction has been eclipsed by the subsequent and decisive steps of the Western Powers; and we shall only quote so much of these papers as shows distinctly the origin, text, and rejection of the summons. But first it may be as well to show how Count Orloff's designs were met at Vienna, and frustrated by the Emperor.

The Earl of Westmorland to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Received February 4.)

(Telegraphic.)

"Vienna, Feb. 4, 1854."

"Count Buol has announced to the French ambassador and to me that Count Orloff's proposition to the Emperor of Austria was, that his Majesty should engage himself to a strict neutrality in the event of the war between Turkey and Russia, in which it appeared that England and France were about to take a part. The Emperor of Austria replied to Count Orloff, asking if the Emperor of Russia would confirm his Majesty's engagements not to pass the Danube; to evacuate the Principalities after the war; and not to disturb the general arrangement at present existing of the Turkish provinces. Count Orloff replied that the Emperor of Russia could take no engagement."

"The Emperor of Austria answered, that in that case he could take no engagement as was proposed to him. He should remain faithful to the principles he had adopted in concert with the other three Powers, and should be guided in his conduct by the interests and the dignity of his empire."

Count Orloff's propositions having been rejected, once when he preferred them personally, and a second time when they were submitted in a more formal manner, and diplomatic relations between Russia and England and France having been suspended, it became necessary to take another step. This step seems to have been suggested by Austria, as will be seen from the following despatch:—

Lord Cowley to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Received February 22.)

(Telegraphic.)

"Paris, Feb. 22, 1854."

"Count Buol assures M. de Bourqueney, that if England and France will fix a delay for the evacuation of the Principalities, the expiration of which shall be the signal for hostilities, the Cabinet of Vienna will support the summons. M. Drouyn de Lhuys is of opinion that this should be done immediately, and that the two Governments should write to Count Nesselrode to demand the immediate commencement of that evacuation—the whole to be concluded by a given time, say the end of March. Silence or refusal to be considered a declaration of war on the part of Russia. Whenever a decision is taken, M. Drouyn de Lhuys begs that you will inform me by telegraph."

On the 23rd, Lord Clarendon telegraphed to the British Ministers at Vienna and Berlin to inquire whether Austria and Prussia would join in the requisition, or support it. From Vienna he received this response:—

The Earl of Westmorland to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Received February 28.)

(Extract.)

(Telegraphic.) "Vienna, February 25, 1854."

"Count Buol approves your proposal of a summons to evacuate the Principalities within a given time, which he will direct Count Esterhazy to support on the following grounds:—1st. His original representations to Russia against the occupation of the Principalities; 2ndly. The disastrous consequences resulting from refusal to evacuate them; 3dly. The responsibility of the war with which Russia will charge herself by such refusal; 4thly. Citing the reply of the Austrian Government to Count Orloff's proposals, by which they reserve their entire liberty of action."

The official reply did not come so rapidly from Berlin. Baron Manteuffel told Lord Bloomfield that he thought the King would join in the requisition, but not take hostile steps in case of a refusal. This was unsatisfactory; and the Queen's messenger was sent on to Vienna without waiting for the Prussian despatch in support of the summons. Our readers have seen that Austria had made up its mind to support the summons on the 25th February. Prussia was several days behind.

Lord Bloomfield to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Received March 7.)

(Extract.)

"Berlin March 4, 1854."

"Baron Manteuffel has just informed me that he had not failed to submit to the King the copies of your lordship's despatch of the 27th ultimo, and of the letter therein enclosed which you have addressed to Count Nesselrode, requiring the evacuation of the Danubian principalities, and that his Majesty immediately ordered him to address an instruction to General Rochow in the sense desired by her Majesty's Government."

"This instruction, he said, was sent to St. Petersburg last night by the post, and was drawn up in very pressing language. It urged the Russian Government to consider the dangers to which the peace of the world would be exposed by a refusal, and declared that the responsibility of the war which might be the consequence of that refusal would rest with the Emperor."

"Baron Manteuffel added that the King, in approving the draft of the despatch which had been laid before him, observed that he felt it to be his duty to give all the support in his power to any measure which might still hold out a hope, ever so slight, of the maintenance of peace."

It was while Captain Blackwood, the Queen's messenger, was at Vienna, that the last proposals of Russia for peace arrived; and he was detained while the Conference went through the formality of rejecting what they knew was inadmissible.

The result of Captain Blackwood's mission is graphically told in a despatch by the British consul—the last of the series.

Consul Michele to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Received March 25.)

(Extract.) "St. Petersburg, March 19, 1854. "I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the despatch which your lordship did me the honour to address to me on the 27th of February ultimo. This despatch, together with its inclosure from your lordship to Count Nesselrode, was delivered to me by the Queen's messenger, Captain Blackwood, at a few minutes after eleven o'clock on the morning of the 13th instant; and I lost not a moment in endeavouring to give effect to your lordship's instructions.

"Within an hour after the arrival of the messenger, the despatch forwarded to me by his Excellency Lord Cowley (inclosing a communication from the French Government to their consul here) was placed by me in the hands of M. de Castillon; and before the expiration of another hour, M. de Castillon and myself had presented ourselves at the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and solicited the honour of an interview with the Chancellor of the Empire, for the purpose of simultaneously presenting the notes of the English and French Cabinets. Count Nesselrode, through the director of his chancellerie, expressed his inability to see us at that moment, but appointed twelve o'clock on the following day to receive the communications of which we were respectively the bearers. When I parted from M. de Castillon, about two o'clock, it was arranged that I was to call for him the following morning, at half-past eleven, in order that we might proceed together to the Chancellor.

"By two o'clock (on the 13th) I had placed in the hands of his Excellency Count Valentin Esterhazy, the Austrian Minister at this Court, the packet of despatches brought to me by Captain Blackwood from his Excellency the Earl of Westmorland at Vienna; and by a little after two I had communicated to his Excellency General Rochow, the Prussian Minister here, the purport of Lord Bloomfield's despatch, dated Berlin, 2nd March instant; viz., 'that no packet had been received by his lordship from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for transmission to St. Petersburg, but that despatches from the Prussian Government would be forwarded to the Prussian representative by their own separate courier.'

"A few minutes before the appointed hour (twelve o'clock on Tuesday, the 14th March instant) M. de Castillon and I arrived at the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and after waiting a few minutes, it was intimated to me by the Director of the Chancellerie 'that Count Nesselrode would receive the English Consul alone,' and I was ushered into his room.

"Count Nesselrode received me with his usual courtesy. I handed to his Excellency your lordship's letter, and stated from a memorandum which I had drawn up the precise terms of your lordship's instructions with reference to the return to England of the Queen's messenger.

"Count Nesselrode requested permission to peruse this memorandum, and I handed it to him. He then informed me that 'the Emperor was not at that moment in St. Petersburg; that on his Majesty's return (which would probably be on Friday the 5-17th instant) your lordship's communication should be laid before his Majesty, and his Majesty's command taken thereon; when a reply to your lordship's letter should be forwarded to me.'

"The Chancellor then remarked upon the length of time that had elapsed since the date of your lordship's despatch to me, viz., February 27, and asked me what had detained the messenger so long on the road.

"I explained that the Queen's messenger had not come direct from London to St. Petersburg, but had been the bearer of despatches for the British ministers at Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, which latter capital Captain Blackwood left only on the 7th instant, and had arrived at St. Petersburg on the morning of the 13th, thus making a rapid journey, considering the very bad state of the roads.

"The Emperor returned to St. Petersburg early on the morning of the 5-17th instant from Finland, whither he had proceeded on Sunday evening the 12th instant, in company with three of his sons, the Grand Dukes Alexander, Nicholas, and Michael, to inspect the fortifications of Wiborg, Helsingfors, and Sveaborg; the Grand Duke Constantine having gone to Finland some days previously.

"At ten o'clock last night I received a note from the Chancellor of the Empire inviting me to call upon him at one o'clock p.m. this day. I was punctual in my attendance; and on sending up my name to the Chancellor, I was informed that the French consul was with his Excellency.

"After waiting a short time, I was told Count Nesselrode would receive me. On entering the room his Excellency's greeting was of the most friendly description. He said, 'I have taken his Majesty's commands with reference to Lord Clarendon's note, and the Emperor does not think it becoming to make any reply to it.' I replied, 'M. le Comte, in a matter of so much importance I am sure I shall be excused for desiring to convey to my Government the exact words employed by your Excellency.' The Count at first used the words, 'his Majesty does not think it becoming in him to give any reply to Lord Clarendon's letter' (ne le croit pas convenable de donner aucune réponse à la lettre de Lord Clarendon). Upon my repeating this phrase after 'Count Nesselrode, his Excellency said, 'L'Empereur ne juge pas convenable,' &c.; and I again repeated after him the entire sentence. After I had done so, the Count said, 'Yes, that is the answer I wish you to convey to your Government.' 'L'Empereur ne juge pas convenable de donner aucune réponse à la lettre de Lord Clarendon.'

"Having delivered to me this official message, Count Nesselrode begged me to be seated, and explained to me that he had only waited the return of the Emperor to submit your lordship's letter to his Majesty. His Excellency then asked me, 'when I proposed to despatch the Queen's messenger?' I told him, 'This afternoon, provided his passport, &c., could be got ready in time.' Count Nesselrode informed me he had already sent a courier's pass for Captain Blackwood to the Baron de Mäsen; and then asked me, 'Whether to-day was not the sixth day?' I said, 'From his arrival at

St. Petersburg it is; but had I been left without any reply, or without such an intimation as I have to-day received from your Excellency, I should not have despatched the messenger until to-morrow, the 20th instant, at twelve o'clock, when six entire days would have elapsed since I placed Lord Clarendon's despatch in your Excellency's hands.'

"In the course of our subsequent conversation, I asked Count Nesselrode what the intentions of his Government were with reference to the consular arrangements between the two countries in the event of a declaration of war? His Excellency replied, 'That will entirely depend upon the course her Britannic Majesty's Government may adopt; we shall not declare war.'

We append the following despatch, because it contains, as described, a tribute of Russia to veracity.

Sir G. H. Seymour to the Earl of Clarendon.

(Received February 24.)

(Extract.) "St. Petersburg, February 16, 1854.

"In the Russian *Projet de Protocole* the Russian Plenipotentiary declares, 'Que si divers actes de la Porte, et notamment à l'égard des lieux saints, ayant paru à l'Empereur indiquer des dispositions peu favorables au culte qu'il professe, avaient engagé sa Majesté à demander, en même temps que l'arrangement spécial des dits lieux, une garantie générale des droits, privilèges, et immunités religieuses accordées à l'Eglise Orthodoxe.' These few words contain a tardy tribute to veracity.

"In the early days of Prince Menchikoff's mission it was stated to me repeatedly and most positively that he had no other object in view than to re-establish and secure the rights of the Greek Church at Jerusalem.

"When the real motives which had carried Prince Menchikoff to Constantinople became known, I was next informed that I had no right to consider that I had been misled, inasmuch as what was claimed for the Greek Church was the necessary confirmation of the Greek rights at the holy places, and only now it comes to light that the special arrangement regarding the holy places is considered by the Russian Cabinet as a question quite distinct from that of the guarantee to be demanded of the rights, privileges, and immunities of the Greek Church.

"I feel grateful to the Imperial Cabinet for having made this admission before my withdrawal from St. Petersburg."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE intelligence of the week from the continent is neither extensive nor varied; and what there is of interest may be briefly told. But its importance must not be measured by its brevity.

Looking first to the banks of the Danube, we find that the Russians have assumed the offensive and opened the campaign. This is the chief news of interest. At present, however, we are dependent on the telegraph, which outdoes even history in misstatement and lying. According to this lively instrument, a strong force of Russians (50,000) has passed the Lower Danube, and laid siege to Matschin.

The Turks have withdrawn before him, so runs the story, and will await him at Trajan's wall. We may remark, however, that the Russians must first dispose of Isatscha, Hirsova, and Kustendji; beside the post recently fortified by Omer Pasha with an especial eye to this movement. Toultscha has been captured by a force from Ismail, at least so says the telegraph. But this is not all. There has been severe fighting at Turtukai.

On the 15th the Russians tried to lay a bridge to the island opposite Oltienitz, but the Turks swept it away with their guns—the Russians losing 2000 men.

On the 23rd they would appear to have been more successful. By a Turkish despatch which reached Vienna, it appears that on the 23rd the Russians, under Prince Gortschakoff, crossed the Danube from Oltienitz in great force. Whether they attacked the Turks, or the Turks attacked them, does not appear, but a sanguinary battle ensued, in which the Russians were repulsed, with a loss of 3000. The Turks then retired to their intrenchments; but it is not clear why they retired if they were victorious. It seems certain that the Russian force maintained itself in Bulgaria.

Kalafat still blocks the Russians out of Servia. A recent order from Omer Pacha, executed, perhaps before this, directed an instant attack to be made on the Russian headquarters at Pojana, and the Kalafat generals were commanded to arrange the plan of the movement with the French Colonel Dien. It is surmised that the attack at Turtukai was only intended to draw off attention from the Dobrudtscha; but the latest accounts say that every soldier has been ordered to the Danube; and that looks like an intention of entering Bulgaria in force, and at once.

The effect of the maritime interposition of the Western Powers is already visible, although the allied fleets have, for some time past, remained tranquilly in their anchorage at Beicos. It is reported that the Russians are abandoning their forts on the east coast of the Black Sea, and that the town of Redout Kalfé had fallen into the hands of the Circassians. Should these accounts be confirmed, much importance must be attached to a result which would render the prolonged defence of the Transcaucasian provinces of Russia difficult, if not impossible.

The fleet remain at Beicos; while it is said the Russians are sending out ships from Sebastopol. But this latter statement is doubtful.

An undated despatch from Constantinople, via Trieste, says:—"The *Sampson* returned from her cruise, with in-

* That if divers acts of the Porte, and especially with regard to the holy places, having appeared to the Emperor to indicate intentions little favourable to the faith which he professes, had induced his Majesty to require, at the same time with the settlement of the more special question of the holy places, a general guarantee for the rights, privileges, and religious immunities accorded to the orthodox church.

formation that the Russians were abandoning their forts on the east coast of the Black Sea. Souchum-Kaleh was in flames, and the Circassians were plundering it. The Russian force opposite Rostchuk is estimated at 70,000 men at least. Omer Pacha had left Shamla to oppose them."

The *Journal de Constantinople* of the 11th instant contains a despatch from Omer Pacha, dated the 30th instant, in which we read:—

"We have now a force of 30,000 men, with 56 heavy guns and field-pieces, at Kalafat and Widdin. Although the Russians, from sure information, have 30,000 men in Little Wallachia, they have for all that lost all desire of attacking Kalafat, and purpose crossing the Danube at other points. If they should really do so, they would render me a great service, by enabling me to give a sound chastisement to those barbarians, who have broken into our house like robbers. But if the Russians do not resume the offensive I shall undertake nothing important until the arrival of our reserves now on their march, and the season being not very favourable, I shall await the reinforcements of cavalry. Besides that, I shall have the advantage of being able to employ the time that will remain to us until operations on a great scale be possible, to teach my troops, by combats in detail, how to beat the Russians, thus raising and maintaining their confidence, while, on the other hand, the demoralisation is now at work that in the Russian army will not fail to increase."

The Russians have also attacked our fortifications with their flotilla, near Chatal-Bournou, once at Isaktschi, and several times those works that are below Matchin, near Potbaschi, always vigorously, but without any result. It seems their gunnery practice is very bad; our soldiers are beginning to despise the Russians to such a degree, that when their flotilla opened its fire on our fortifications, our men got on the parapet and strolled about. The spirit of the army is excellent. Mustapha Pacha, commanding at present in the Dobrodja, has done exceedingly well. He has constructed some very solid fortifications near Chatal-Bournou, at the spot where the Danube branches off between Isaktschi and Toultsa, and where, on account of the marshes, he has made three covered trenches, each above 2000 feet long, and all serving to keep up the communications. The fortifications at Potbaschi below Matchin, near the spot where the arm of the Danube from Braila rejoins that of Matchin, are also of recent construction. Our forces in the Dobrodja, below Karasson, consist of twenty battalions of infantry, 2000 men of the irregular infantry, 1 cavalry regiment, and 1 regiment of irregular horse, lately formed of Tartars and Cossacks, of 2500 horses of the irregular cavalry, and of 48 pieces of ordnance, 6 of which are siege guns. Achmet Pacha has just fortified Kalafat so well, that this place can only be taken by a regular siege, and for this the Russians are not in sufficient force."

War was declared in France on Monday. The Minister of State, in the name of the Emperor, read a message to the Legislative Body, announcing that the final resolve of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg has placed Russia in a state of war as regards France. The Emperor also declares that the whole responsibility of this rupture rests on the Russian Government. The message was received with energetic expressions of adhesion by the whole Legislative Body. M. Billault, the President, then went on to say that the Emperor relied on the support of the Legislative Body, as well as on that of France, under this grave aspect of affairs. This intimation was also received with loud cheers, and the Assembly broke up with shouts of "Vive l'Empereur."

A similar communication was also made to the Senate, where it was received with the same enthusiasm.

The Minister of Commerce has just informed the various Chambers of Commerce throughout France that letters of marque will not be granted to American vessels, and that the Federal Government had declared to the French Minister that acts so contrary to the rights of nations would not be tolerated in the territory of the Union.

The *Moniteur* of Tuesday published the following declaration:—

"Art. 1. A delay of six weeks, dating from this day, is granted to Russian trading vessels to leave French ports. Consequently, Russian trading vessels actually in our ports, or those which, having left Russian ports before the declaration of war, shall enter French ports, may enter and complete their cargoes up to the 9th of May inclusively.

"Art. 2. Such of these ships as shall be captured by French cruisers, after having left the ports of the empire, shall be let free, if they can prove by their papers on board that they were making direct for their port of destination, and had not been yet able to reach it.

(Signed) "DECRETS DE LOI."

"March 27, 1854."

The *Moniteur* also declares that Russian subjects may continue to reside in France under the protection accorded by the law to all strangers, on the sole condition for them to respect it.

A very remarkable sign of the times is displayed by the fact, that no less than 98,000 persons have subscribed in France to the new French loan! No less than 60,000 of these subscribers are stated to belong to the humbler classes—subscribing each their 50 francs of Rente.

The chief facts of interest in other parts of the Continent are briefly these:—

The Duke of Parma has been stabbed in the streets of Turin, and has died of the wound. He is succeeded by his son the Duke Robert, under the Regency of his mother, the sister of the Count de Chambord. The following letter has appeared in the *Daily News* from M. Gallenga:—

"Sir,—A telegraphic despatch from Milan announces the assassination of the Duke of Parma. No one is so ready to execrate deed of such a nature as I am; yet before the English people abandon themselves to their just feelings of indignation, may I be allowed the following statements—not by any means intended to extenuate, but likely perhaps in some manner to account for the murder:—The Duke of

Parma declared his duchy in a state of siege in 1848, and the state of siege continues to this day. He closed every college, school, and seminary in 1848, and the youth of the duchy have ever since been denied all education, either at home or abroad. He used the public highways to any extent, and at any time it suited his purpose; he fixed no limits to the civil list, and gave no account of either revenue or expenditure. He allowed no security for life or freedom. He submitted young men of good family and blameless conduct to arbitrary arrest, flogging, and the greatest indignities—without cause, without trial, without redress. I am ready to furnish proofs of all these assertions, and meanwhile sign myself, without reserve."

The Regent ordered Baron Ward, the late Duke's Minister, instantly to quit the country.

The King of Prussia, walking in his garden in the evening, struck his forehead against the bough of a tree and injured his eye. The wound has suppurated, and erysipelas has set in. The accident is referred to the "short-sightedness" of the monarch; but those who know his fondness for champagne will not be at a loss to divine the real cause.

German politics are more complicated than ever. The Emperor of Austria has sent Baron Hess, a diplomatic soldier, to Berlin. The draught of a treaty between Austria and Prussia was sent to Berlin on the 23rd, and on the 27th Baron Hess left for Berlin. The ostensible object of this treaty is the maintenance of the neutrality of the two states and of Germany; but, in fact, the treaty is the instrument of an offensive and defensive alliance. The terms, however, are not yet definitely settled, but the *Austrian Correspondent*, in reference to this subject, says that there is no reason to doubt that a closer alliance, and a more perfect understanding, will be the result of the intercommunications of the two Cabinets.

On the 14th the Czar, attended by the Grand Dukes Constantine, Nicholas, and Michael, reached Helmsingfors. After giving audience to the authorities, he went to the university, together with his eldest son, and expressed his high satisfaction to the professors and students. He then gave a dinner in the palace, and at its close a number of the students sang national Russian hymns. In the evening the town was illuminated. On the following day the Emperor reviewed the troops, and visited Sveaborg.

A telegraphic despatch, dated Copenhagen March 24, announces that the Danish Chambers were prorogued on that day. It is believed that the King will not at present part with his advisers, notwithstanding the recent vote of the Diet.

THE MANSION-HOUSE BANQUET.

LORD MAYOR SIDNEY has given the usual entertainment which City hospitality yearly provides for her Majesty's Ministers. Singularly enough the great event was coincident with the return of Captain Blackwood from St. Petersburg, bringing the reply from the Czar to the summons of the Western Powers, namely, that he had no reply to give. That news arrived, and the banquet took place, on Saturday last. Among the guests were the Cabinet Ministers, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Clarendon, the Duke of Newcastle, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Granville, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Sir William Molesworth, and Mr. Gladstone; the envoys from France, Austria, Prussia, America, Holland, Denmark, Naples, Turkey, Bavaria, Sardinia, Portugal, and Peru, with a crowd of other distinguished persons, including several ladies of high estate, and many members of Parliament.

After dinner the usual routine of toasts and speeches followed, proposed and responded to in the usual manner. In proposing the "Army and Navy," the Lord Mayor alluded to the long peace of forty years, and referring to the rumour of Captain Blackwood's arrival, said that day might be regarded as the last day of European peace. To his praises of Lord Hardinge, the commander-in-chief replied with compliment to Lord Raglan, and the thanks of the Army. For the Navy, Admiral Berkeley was the spokesman; and he told how he had vainly endeavoured to obtain a command; he had even intimated that rather than not go, he would serve under Sir Charles Napier, one of the few officers under whom he would be willing to serve.

In proposing the health of her Majesty's Ministers, the Lord Mayor praised them for their moderation, and demanded for them the support of the country which they deserved.

Lord Aberdeen made this response:—

"My Lord Mayor, ladies, and gentlemen, in responding on the part of her Majesty's Government to the toast which has just been so kindly drunk, I have to express our acknowledgments of the honour you have conferred upon us, and of the splendid hospitality which has been extended to us this evening. (*Heard, heard.*) My lord, it is in moments of national difficulty and anxiety like this that the support and goodwill of our fellow-countrymen become doubly valuable; and at a time like the present you may easily believe that those sentiments are fully appreciated by her Majesty's Ministers. My lord, in this hall, about a year ago, I declared that the policy of her Majesty's Government was a policy of peace. I repeated that declaration elsewhere, and, indeed, on all other occasions. If our hopes of maintaining peace has, however, been disappointed, I can say that it has not been disappointed from the want of any endeavour on our part to realise that policy. (*Loud cheers.*) Indeed, I believe that if this had not been the case—if the truth and sincerity of those declarations had not been admitted—we should not have received that general assent and support throughout the country which it has been our

good fortune to meet with. (*Cheers.*) I will not think it inconsistent if, even at this crisis, I repeat that declaration; for, although it is too true that very shortly we may have to seek peace by other means than those which we have hitherto employed, still peace is our main object. (*Loud cheers.*) And, my Lord Mayor, it is, in pursuing this object, a great satisfaction to her Majesty's Ministers to be acting in concert with an ally from whom we have from the first experienced the utmost cordiality, truth, and loyalty. (*Loud cheers.*)

I remember that my distinguished friend whom I now see near me [the French ambassador] joined with me last year in expressing the hope of preserving peace; and I have no doubt that we shall still pursue that object together, and by the same means. And although war may be carried on with vigour and energy, yet I think we must entertain a firm resolution to terminate that war as speedily as possible, consistently with national honour."

Greeted by loud cheering, Lord Aberdeen resumed his seat; and the Lord Mayor next proposed the health of the Foreign Ministers. For them Count Walewski replied in French. Remarking on the great number of ambassadors present, he pointed to it as a proof of the unanimity of the world against Russia. Peace they had fruitlessly striven to maintain. But he might be permitted to recall the words of his Sovereign—"the age of conquest is irrevocably passed"—and it was to defend the right, to sustain the feeble against the strong, to maintain treaties, that they now went to war, and such a war ought not to disquiet any one. And the union of the fleets and armies of France and England which would ultimately consolidate peace, fitly inaugurated the new era so strongly characterised by the Emperor Napoleon. (*Cheers.*)

The Bishop of London replied for "the Church;" the Lord Chancellor for the House of Lords; and Mr. Gladstone for the House of Commons. In the course of his speech he spoke as follows:

"My Lord Mayor, I might indeed have been more fortunate in the moment at which I address you. In other years we have had more flattering accounts to present to the country, and less urgent demands to make upon it. It has been the happy fortune even of her Majesty's present advisers to make proposals to Parliament in days less critical, and under necessities less urgent, which have had the effect of greatly lightening the burdens of the people, and of assisting to enlarge the resources of our industry and of our commerce. At the present day the case is far otherwise. It has been our duty within the last few weeks to urge upon Parliament, and it has been the choice and the pleasure of the House of Commons to answer readily to that call, to make additions to the charge that weighs upon the people for great public purposes connected with the honour and the duty of the country. And as a member of the Government, and as a representative of the people, in either capacity I cannot too strongly express my sense of the manner in which that demand has been met, not only within the walls of Parliament but throughout the country, without the slightest symptoms of murmur or discontent. (*Cheers.*) I believe that if we seek the reasons of this contentment, they are these:—First of all I find the reason of it in the free institutions with which we are blessed; and secondly, in the conviction which pervades every class and every rank of the community, that if a time has arrived for increased demands and augmented burdens, at least the devoted endeavours of the Government and of Parliament have not been wanting in order to avert that unhappy necessity. And as they have used every effort to avert it, so there is a like conviction that now, when that necessity has arrived, they will face it as becomes Englishmen, supported by the energies of their fellow-countrymen, and by the sympathies of Christendom." (*Loud cheers.*)

The other speakers were Sir Alexander Cockburn, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Duke of Newcastle, and Mr. Recorder Stuart Wortley.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

A MEETING was held in St. Martin's Hall, Long-acre, on Wednesday, to express the sympathy of the London operatives for their brethren at Preston, whose leaders have been charged with conspiracy by the Masters' Association. Mr. William Coningham presided. Among the speakers were Mr. Cowell, Mr. W. Newton, Mr. Lloyd Jones, and Mr. Sturgeon. We have so fully gone into the case of the Preston men that we need not here report the speeches; but the resolutions are worth preserving. They were these:—

"That the present Lord Chancellor of England, when Baron Rolfe, and in his capacity of judge, laid down the law thus:—'That if there were no other object than to persuade people that it was their interest not to work except for certain wages, and not to work under certain regulations, complied with in a peaceable manner, it was not illegal.' That the operatives of Preston have for a period of thirty weeks been engaged in a contest with their employers, and during the whole of that time have conducted themselves in the most peaceable and orderly manner. That, notwithstanding these facts, eleven members of the operatives' committee have been committed to take their trial at the present Liverpool assizes, on a charge of conspiracy, although neither violence nor intimidation has been proved or even charged against them. This meeting is therefore of opinion that the conduct of the manufacturers and magistrates of Preston is reprehensible; that they have been guilty of an unwarrantable assumption of power; that they have destroyed at once the equality of the law and personal freedom; and that such proceedings ought to be condemned by the unanimous voice of the people." (*Loud cheers.*)

"That the sympathy and help of the entire of the working classes of the United Kingdom should be devoted to the vin-

dication of justice and the maintenance of right. This meeting therefore pledges itself to an extraordinary and continuous support of the Preston operatives in their present trying position, and earnestly exhorts all who have an interest in the elevation of labour to join with them in supporting its best interests."

These resolutions were carried unanimously.

The people of Sheffield, in their Town Hall assembled, under the presidency of Mr. Alderman Fisher, have spoken out on the Reform Bill. Mr. Alderman Dunn moved, and Mr. Alderman Solly seconded, the following resolution:—

"That the bill he laid by her Majesty's Ministers before the House of Commons, for extending the franchise and removing from small and decayed places the right of returning members and conferring that right on large and populous towns and districts, deserves the vigorous and hearty support of the people, urging upon Government the necessity of adopting all constitutional means for securing the passing of the Reform Bill this session."

Mr. Ironside, supported by a minority of working-men, moved an amendment declaring that as the bill gives no power to the labouring classes, it does not deserve support; but, after an animated discussion, the original resolution was carried by a large majority.

There was a singular gathering at the Music Hall, Store-street, on Thursday, to denounce secret diplomacy, and object to the occupation of Turkey by French and British troops. The chairman was Mr. Nicholas; and among the persons present were Mr. Urquhart, Mr. W. Coningham, Mr. Luke Hansard, Dr. Epps, and Mr. Dobson Collet. An amendment, approving of the war and the conduct of Ministers, was rejected; secret diplomacy was denounced, and alarm was expressed at the occupation of Turkish territory by British troops!

Mr. Alderman Heywood presided over a large meeting at Manchester, on Wednesday, when resolutions were adopted pledging the meeting to give the Preston operatives their energetic support.

The Lambeth people met on Thursday to consider Mr. Baines's Settlement and Removal Bill. Mr. Williams, M.P., spoke against the bill; Mr. Wilkinson, the other member, spoke for it. The great majority of the meeting declared that it viewed the bill with great alarm, because it would fill the parish with idle and dissolute poor.

ANOTHER CUBAN DIFFICULTY.

THE Cuban authorities have provided another case for the interference of the United States. They have seized a steam-ship called the *Black Warrior*, alleging an informality in the ship's manifest. It would appear that the ship, laden with cotton for New York, touched at Havannah. The cotton cargo was not in the manifest, as it was not intended for Cuba. They have also seized a schooner.

The consequence is that General Pierce sent, on the 15th, a message to the Senate, intimating that the outrage is so clear that he shall expect full indemnity as soon as the matter shall be made known to her Catholic Majesty's Government, although similar expectations in other cases have not been realised. The President states further, that he has already taken measures to present matters to the Spanish Government, and to demand immediate indemnity for this wanton outrage. In case the measures taken for an amicable adjustment with Spain should unfortunately fail, the President will not fail to use the authority and means at his disposal to insure the observance of just rights, to obtain redress, and to vindicate the honour of the American flag. In anticipation of contingencies, he suggests to Congress the propriety of adopting such provisional measures as the exigency may seem to demand. The message was received by Congress with great satisfaction by all parties. It was reported that a Government steamer would be despatched to Cadiz immediately.

A messenger arrived on Wednesday, by the *Arctic*, with instructions for Mr. Soule, the American Minister at Madrid, directing him to demand immediate satisfaction for the outrage committed by the Cuban authorities.

INDIA AND CHINA.

THE Overland Mail has brought advices from Hong-Kong to the 11th, and Bombay to the 28th February. The only news of importance from Burmah is, that the French authorities have ordered home the Frenchman d'Orgoni, who has made himself notorious at Ava in giving the Burmese lessons in drill and rifle shooting. Bassein is disturbed, and dacoits are plentiful. At Bombay the people were thinking about the defences of their harbour—at present quite defenceless, it would appear, against a sudden attack.

The Chinese intelligence is scanty, as usual, and negative. Shanghai has not been retaken by the Imperialists. The most important fact is, that duties have almost ceased to be collected at the post.

THE FRIENDS OF POLAND.

INSTEAD of their annual ball, the friends of Poland have this year given a dinner, and it proved highly successful, the proceeds of the evening's subscription to the funds of the Literary Society reaching 1000l. The scene of the banquet was the London Tavern, and the flag of Poland hung beside that of Turkey. The proceedings were very spiritedly sustained. The Lord Mayor presided, supported by the Prince Czartoryski, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Albemarle, the Earl of Yarborough, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Beaumont, Viscount Sandon, Lord Kinsale, Lord Dudley Stuart, Sir John V. Shelley, M.P., Sir Benjamin Hall, M.P., Sir G. Strickland, M.P., Sir Joshua Walmesley, M.P., Sir James Duke, M.P., Mr. Muntz, M.P., Mr. Moncton Milnes, M.P., Colonel Freestun, M.P., Mr. T. Hankey, M.P., Admiral Taylor, C.B., Mr. Zohrab, the Turkish Consul, Alderman Wire, Mr. Alcock, Mr.P., Mr. Ferguson, M.P., Mr. Otway, M.P., Mr. Penney, M.P., Mr. Cobbett, M.P., Colonel Szyma, Lieutenant C. Szulcowski, Mr. Anderton, Mr. Gore Langton, M.P., Mr. Brady, M.P., and Mr. Chisholm Anstey. The speakers showed the utmost sympathy for Poland, and ardent longings were expressed for her restoration to the map of Europe.

TRIAL OF COWELL AND OTHERS POSTPONED.

At the Liverpool Assizes, on Tuesday, George Cowell, Michael Gallagher, Mortimer Grimshaw, Luke Wood, John Brocckebank, John Lang, John Gardner, William Parkinson, James Waddington, Joseph Dolphin, and Thomas Gregson, were indicted for unlawfully conspiring together, and threatening, intimidating, molesting, and obstructing certain workpeople at Preston, and preventing them from accepting employment with certain manufacturers there, whose names were set out in the indictment, in order to force the said manufacturers to make alterations in their mode of carrying on their trades and businesses. There were other counts varying the charge.

The defendants pleaded, "Not Guilty."

Mr. Watson and Mr. Spinks applied for the postponement of the trial, on the ground that the defendants had not had sufficient time to prepare their defence. The Attorney-General for the County Palatine pressed for the trial, which it was important should be settled at once. But Mr. Justice Cresswell thought the public would hold the trial to have been unfair if proceeded with then, and accorded the application.

THE PRESTON LABOUR-BATTLE.

(From our Correspondent.)

Preston, Thursday.

THE immediate result of the apprehension of the eleven delegates mentioned in my last, is indicated by a considerable increase of subscriptions to the relief fund. The weavers' fund alone mounted up to nearly 2700l., which was 700l. more than that of the previous week, and greater than any one week's subscription, excepting that which included the extraordinary sums for the supply of the Christmas dinner. The fund organised for the defence of the defendant delegates now amounts to a very sufficient sum, by the aid of special levies made throughout all parts of the district, and some very munificent subscriptions from independent persons of all ranks; who, while desirous of avoiding anything calculated to inflame this disastrous dispute, are yet determined to have justice done by these men. The postponement of the trial until next August assizes is regarded here with very conflicting feelings; the operatives look upon it as a proper assertion of justice, and the associated masters with all the bitterness of disappointment. The secrecy with which the prosecution was prepared, its postponement until the very commencement of the assizes, and the indecent haste with which the preliminary examinations were hurried over, and the committal pressed for, all tend to show that the association was very anxious to give the defendants the least possible time for their defence, and to press the indictment to a conviction during the present assizes. It is difficult to conceive how they could have been advised that such an offence against all ideas of fair play would be tolerated, or that any judge would lend himself to the petty manoeuvres of a clique by permitting so gross a distortion of the law; but there can be little doubt that such were their expectations, and that the postponement of the trial may be looked upon as the complete failure of the coup. Some, indeed, expect that the prosecutions may now be safely numbered among the things that have been, and if (as we sincerely hope may be the case) these unhappy differences are healed before next autumn, it would obviously be a most imprudent act to reopen the sore by resuscitating the most ill-advised among a long string of mistaken measures. The independent public are, moreover, beginning to inquire what are the precise points of difference between the

conspiracy of the masters and the conspiracy of the men, and it has been urged, with great justice, that if the men are to be prosecuted for doing such and such things, the masters should be made to undergo the same ordeal for doing likewise. I do not anticipate that the workpeople will be so ill-advised as to take any aggressive measures against the masters or their agents; but, if these prosecutions be persevered in, they cannot be blamed if they act in self-defence.

The reception of the defendant delegates at Liverpool appears to have been quite a triumph. The workpeople of different trades took a holiday, and feasting, toasting, and subscribing were quite the order of the day. An enthusiastic meeting was held in the Concert Hall on the evening of their discharge, at which many of the defendants spoke.

In spite of the extraordinary efforts made to conceal the facts, the conduct of the immigrants imported by the association is not believed to be very satisfactory to their new employers. Cases of drunkenness, and of selling clothes and bedding furnished to them on their arrival, are confidently related; but none of these find their way before the magistrates, and for very obvious reasons. I have good reason to believe, and that from very likely information, that the work turned out by these persons is of the most unsatisfactory description, and that, indeed, they spoil much more than they render available. In spite of these discouraging facts, the agents of the association appear to be contriving their efforts to swell the number of the recruits, and as each batch arrives endeavours are made to spread about a very exaggerated report of the number and importance of their accessions. If this is done with the view of frightening the old hands into resuming work, it entirely fails of its effect; for the Unionists take care to be very well informed upon the number of persons imported into the town. From returns which I have obtained of the immigrants imported during the week, I find that there has been a very considerable falling off. From last Saturday morning up to this morning 127 persons were imported, of whom 27 were useless. During the same period 20 have been sent back again by train, among whom were two lunatics (who are understood to have been procured from a union workhouse in Buckinghamshire), and many other returning immigrants are said to have gone on foot as far as Chorley, taking the train there.

As an instance of the feeling which exists among some of the immigrants, I may mention the case of a woman named Matilda Taylor, who, on Saturday last, made an appeal to the Mayor under the following circumstances:—It appeared that this woman had been brought from Ireland by an agent of Messrs. Birley, Brothers, and that on her arrival she was assigned to Mr. R. Threlfall. Mr. Threlfall's manager stated that upon her arrival, with a company of Irish, she was appointed housekeeper of the house in which they lived, to prepare their food and attend to the household duties; that the company under her care refused to permit her to remain in the capacity of housekeeper; and that when asked if she would work at the mill, she replied in the negative. The poor woman denied the statement made by Mr. Threlfall's manager, and expressed a wish to return to Ireland; whereupon the Mayor made an order that she should be sent back again forthwith, and that Mr. Threlfall should pay the expenses of her journey.

On Tuesday evening an accident occurred at Messrs. Hunber's mill, exemplifying the folly (not to say cruelty) of putting unskilled hands to superintend complicated machinery. A new hand from Buckinghamshire was set to manage a self-acting mule, and one of his legs was torn off by the mechanism.

The practice of crowding round the mills and the railway stations is now altogether abandoned, neither is the offensive word "knobstick" publicly used; but the mischievous have invented a substitute for the latter by crooking the fore-finger into the shape of a "knobstick" when any of the offenders happen to pass by. Large and enthusiastic meetings of the unemployed continue to be held in various parts of the district, and in the neighbourhood of Preston, and a plot of land, part of the freehold park, situate within the borough, has afforded space for several open-air demonstrations, with the full permission of the owners of the freehold.

The trimestral adjournment of the masters has drawn from the operatives a pledge to continue the dispute for four, or even six months, if necessary. At a meeting of the Association of the Spinners and Minders of Lancashire and the adjoining counties, held at Blackburn on Sunday last, the following resolutions were adopted:—

"1. That the ratepayers, and other inhabitants of Preston, be respectfully requested to accept the lasting gratitude of this meeting, for the practical sympathy and generous support they have extended to the factory operatives of Preston and their advocates, under the trying circumstances in which they are now placed; likewise the assurance of our deep regret at the fact, that strangers, in a state of the most abject poverty, are being introduced into the town for the purpose of depressing labour to the starvation point, thereby

entailing upon the inhabitants numerous evils for which they alone are responsible who, by their arbitrary proceedings, have prevented this protracted dispute from being brought long ago to an amicable settlement.

"2. That while we who are here assembled sincerely regret the unwillingness of the Preston millowners to pay the same rate of wages as other master spinners and manufacturers, we are quite amused at their endeavours, by printed resolution, to create the impression that the scheme of importing new hands, to supersede the old ones, is a successful one; also at their bombastical resolution, professing to adjourn their meeting for three months. Moreover, as it is the firm resolve of the factory workers to continue to support their fellow-workpeople of Preston, and relying with confidence upon the sympathy of a generous public, the turn-outs and lock-outs of Preston may look with the most perfect indifference at the proceedings of the millowners' meetings, whether called at the end of three or six months, which have not for their object full and ample justice to their workpeople.

"3. The spinners and minders formerly employed in the mills of Preston, having ever manifested a sincere desire to arrive at a speedy, honourable, and amicable settlement of existing differences, and having adopted every proper means they can think of for that purpose, this meeting respectfully recommends them to surrender the ten per cent., provided their former employers will agree to take an equal number of the highest and lowest lists of prices from districts within a circuit of a given number of miles by which the spinners and minders in such districts are paid, and will take an average of the whole as their future list of prices.

"4. That this meeting being convinced on the evidence of the most palpable facts, that the Preston factory workers have deplored the existence of the present dispute ever since its commencement, and as nothing but their acceptance of the most degrading conditions will satisfy the millowners, all their endeavours to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion, whether by arbitration, mediation, or by interviews with their employers, having hitherto proved unavailing, a well-digested scheme of co-operation be now recommended, and commenced at the earliest possible opportunity, convinced as we are that the union of capital and labour in the same hands affords the best guarantee of a fair return for both.

"5. That in order to carry out the last preceding resolution into effect, this meeting is of opinion that the trades throughout the country should be communicated with, urging upon them the necessity of petitioning the Legislature to pass a law of limited liability in partnership, and thus offer those numerous capitalists who are anxious that the working classes should permanently improve their social condition, an opportunity of assisting them to do so by the enactment of a law which shall hold them responsible only to the amount of money they may think proper to invest in any undertaking.

A meeting of the townspeople was convened last night, in the Theatre, for the purpose of taking the present crisis into consideration. Several speakers addressed the meeting, and many gentlemen were nominated "mediators" to interfere between the masters and the operatives. As many of those names, however, were introduced without the sanction of their owners, I do not anticipate any good effect from the meeting; on the contrary, I think that such crude proceedings, far from facilitating, can only impede an amicable settlement.

DR. BARTH'S ARRIVAL AT TIMBUCTOO.

THIS indefatigable and enterprising traveller has arrived safely at Timbuctoo. He has accomplished a perilous journey of 2000 miles from Kuka on the shore of Lake Tchad, to the far-famed city of the Great Desert, without any companion to share the responsibility of the undertaking, or to consult with in its difficulties. The loss of Dr. Overweg at Kuka, in September, 1852, obliged him to give up their grand enterprise—a journey from Lake Tchad to the shore of the Indian Ocean—but Dr. Barth then determined to attempt the journey to Timbuctoo alone.

"As the sole survivor of the mission," so wrote Dr. Barth before his departure from Kuka, "the completion of its objects now devolving entirely on me, I feel my powers doubled, and my mind all the more determined single-handed to follow up the results already obtained. My means consist of a tolerable supply of presents, in addition to 200 dollars, four camels, and four horses; my health is in the best condition; and with five trustworthy, long-tried servants, well armed and having plenty of powder and shot with us, I shall with fresh and redoubled courage, and with full confidence of success, start on my journey to Timbuctoo."

He left Kuka at the end of November, 1852, for Sakatu, but the last letters received from him were dated Kaslina, 6th March, 1853. Kaslina is about half way to Sakatu. His letters from that time until September last have not been received. The letters and despatches received this week bear dates ranging from the 7th September to the 5th October last.

"On the 7th September, 1853, Dr. Barth entered Timbuctoo in a grand style, escorted by the brother of the Sheikh-el-Bakay, the ruling chief of that city, and by a splendid suite on horseback, on camels, and on foot, welcomed and saluted by the festive multitudes of the inhabitants. The latter had been made to believe that the stranger was a messenger from the Great Sultan of Stambul! the real character of Dr. Barth being only known to the Sheikh himself, whose protection and goodwill the intrepid traveller had been fortunate enough to obtain, and who considered it advisable that he should assume that character on account of the very fanatical disposition of the people. During his subsequent stay up to the 5th of October, the Sheikh-el-Bakay and his brother had remained the faithful friends of the pretended 'ambassador

from Stambul; but even under this character Dr. Barth considered himself not entirely free from danger, owing to the complicated character of the political powers which exercise sovereign sway over Timbuctoo—the inhabitants being composed of various nationalities. There are, first, the Sonrars, forming the great bulk of the people; then Arabs of various tribes, Fellatas and Turuicks, together with a small number of Bambara and Mandingos. One faction was not at all favourably disposed towards Dr. Barth, but wished his death; so that it was necessary for him to observe great caution in his movements and intercourse with the people. Fortunately, indeed, it was that the traveller had secured the sincere and unequivocal friendship of the Sheikh, under whose immediate protection he lived at Timbuctoo, and who had promised to have him safely escorted on his return to Sakatu."

Dr. Barth's health has suffered from this long and dangerous journey, and also from his residence in the town of Timbuctoo, which is full of closely-packed houses. Its exact latitude and longitude differs from that in which it is set down on most maps and globes.

"The city of Timbuctoo, which to reach has been the life's ambition of so many celebrated travellers, is placed by Dr. Barth in 18 deg. 3 min. 30 sec. to 18 deg. 4 min. 5 sec. north latitude, and 1 deg. 45 min. west longitude from Greenwich. Its form is that of a triangle; it is closely built of houses mostly of clay and stone, many with handsome and tasteful fronts, the arrangement of the interior being similar to that of Agadez, visited by Dr. Barth in 1850. The population is estimated at 20,000 souls. Dr. Barth found the market of Timbuctoo, which is celebrated as the centre of the North African caravan trade, to be of less extent than that of Kano, but the merchandise of a superior quality and greater value. He has obtained a complete *insane* from the Sheikh for any English traders that may wish to visit Timbuctoo. The country in which Timbuctoo is situated borders on the Sahara, and is similar to that region, being of a dry and barren description, except towards the Kowara, where it assumes a more fertile appearance. September formed the height of the rainy season, and the rains, though not very heavy, then occurred every second or third day."

He is not yet aware of the expedition under Dr. Vogel, sent to his aid in February, 1853, nor of the steamboat expedition about to visit the regions discovered by him in 1851.

We derive these particulars from a letter addressed to the *Morning Chronicle* by Mr. A. Petermann.

MISCELLANEOUS.

QUEEN VICTORIA held a Privy Council on Wednesday at Buckingham Palace, when the various Orders in Council for the conduct of the war were ordered to be issued. Her Majesty has been to the Olympic. On Saturday, Prince Albert visited the Crystal Palace. Lord Cardigan, Brigadiers-General Buller, Scarlett, and Pennefather, have been guests of the Queen. Mr. Macaulay also dined at the Palace on Monday.

The Queen will open the Crystal Palace, at Sydenham, in person, on the 24th of May.

The elections for Tynemouth and Liskeard came off on Thursday. At Tynemouth the candidates were, Mr. Lindsay, Liberal-Conservative, and Mr. Dickson, Tory. At the close of the poll the numbers were, Lindsay, 357; Dickson, 340—a narrow victory. At Liskeard there were three Liberal candidates:—Mr. R. W. Grey, Lord Palmerston's private secretary, 138; Mr. J. S. Trelawney, formerly member for Tavistock, 118; and Mr. Haythorne Reede, 11.

Westmoreland election is fixed for the 4th of April. The Tories have put forward the Earl of Bective, son of the Marquis of Headfort, and non-in-law of the late Alderman Thompson. The Liberals have requested Mr. Strickland to stand.

The Lord Chancellor, yielding at length to the solicitations of the bar, has consented that the Equity Courts shall sit in Lincoln's Inn.

Meetings of Roman Catholics have been held at Liverpool and Dublin to protest against the Chambers' Inquisition Committee.

The Philanthropic Farm School, established at Redhill for the reformation of juvenile criminals, has successfully demonstrated the utility of the system. Since 1849, it has in five years received 606 boys, and sent 412 to our colonies and America fitted to earn their living. At the anniversary dinner of the friends of the institution, on Saturday, 1300l. were subscribed towards its expenses.

Mr. Richard Hassley Kennedy, proposed by Mr. W. H. Ashurst, is the new Alderman of the Ward of Cheap, in the room of the late Mr. Alderman Thompson. His opponent was Mr. Thorpe, nephew of the late Alderman Thorpe. Mr. Kennedy gained the show of hands at the nomination, and Mr. Thorpe demanded a poll, but finding the majority against him he withdrew.

A great number of pilots from Hull have departed to join the Baltic fleet.

The Lambeth baths and washhouses were opened on Wednesday by a public ceremony. The Archbishop of Canterbury was present.

Paragraph inditers assure us that the Czar has had an attack of erysipelas: it has been cured by the journey through the snows of Finland, prescribed by his physicians to save him from a personal interview with an Englishman, the sight of any of that nation (Quakers excepted) being likely at this moment to give a severe shock to the Imperial nerves. The King of Denmark was last week indisposed—to see Sir Charles Napier. The King of Prussia, during an after-dinner walk in his orchard ("his custom always of an

afternoon"), has run his head against an apple-tree, and is confined to bed in consequence. It is to be hoped the Emperor of Austria may escape this epidemic among crowned heads: a fit of sickness in the honeymoon would be a sad *contretemps*. King Otho, it is feared, shows symptoms of the falling sickness.—*Daily News*.

Benedetto Negri, the once distinguished teacher of singing, died on the 24th ult., at Turin, in the 71st year of his age.

The Duke of Portland died on Monday at Welbeck, aged 85. He was in 1807 a Junior Lord of the Treasury, under Mr. Canning; Privy Seal in 1827; and President of the Council in the Ministry of Lord Goderich. He married the sister of Mr. Canning. He is succeeded by his son the Marquis of Titchfield.

The cholera has somewhat abated in the north of Ireland; but it still seizes its victims here and there in county Cork. One of the most recent is Captain Hopkinson, of the Sixty-second Regiment, who died after six hours' suffering in Fermoy barracks.

Since the appearance of the cholera at Kanturk, up to the end of last week, 129 persons have been attacked, 51 have died, and 66 then remained under treatment.

The deaths from cholera in Scotland have been considerable. They have occurred at Glasgow, Falkirk, Alloa, Calderbank, Bathgate, and Edinburgh.

A new comet was observed on Wednesday, near the western horizon, in the constellation Pices. It is of a fine gold colour, as brilliant as a star of the first magnitude, and its tail stretches over many degrees.

The last Western mail coach was finally taken off the road on Saturday last. It ran from Exeter to Dorchester.

On the night of the 19th inst., at half-past ten o'clock, a smart shock of an earthquake was experienced at St. Sebastian, north coast of Spain. The walls of houses trembled, and the horizontal oscillations which accompany such phenomena were apparent.

The famous car of Juggernaut was totally destroyed by fire on the 6th of February last. The "proprietors" are inconsolable. They can't conceive how they had offended their god.

A mixed gauge is now in course of formation on the railway between Basingstoke and Oxford, to complete a direct narrow gauge communication between Southampton and the North of England.

The Commissioners of Customs have given notice of their intention immediately to commence taking stock of all the goods at the bonded warehouses throughout the United Kingdom, in conformity with the clauses in the Customs Consolidation Act, requiring that process, and its repetition every five years.

A very remarkable exhibition took place on Thursday at the Marylebone Workhouse, by Messrs. Morlan, Martin, and Journet, a French firm, who undertook to demonstrate before a committee of the board of guardians that, by a peculiar modification in the fermenting process, the amount of bread from a given weight of flour could be increased to at least 50 per cent. This singular method was invented by a French gentleman, a pupil of Orfila. Two sacks of flour were made use of, both under seal, and issued by the authorities of the workhouse. One of these was manipulated in the ordinary way, the other by the associated French manufacturers. The results were in the highest degree satisfactory. The first sack converted into bread by the usual method produced 90 loaves weighing 360 lbs. The second bag of flour placed in the hands of the French bakers, produced 134 loaves, weighing 520 lbs., giving an increase of very nearly 50 per cent., under circumstances very disadvantageous to the owners of the secret.

There have been three men convicted of murder at the Assizes just now coming to a close. At Norwich, William Thompson, who murdered Lorenzo Beha, the jeweller, on the highway, in broad daylight, apparently because he owed an instalment for a watch, is sentenced to be hanged. At Shrewsbury, John Lloyd is under sentence of death for shooting John Gittins, at Newcliff. Gittins accused Lloyd, who lodged with him, of being too intimate with his wife; and one day called to Lloyd to come and nurse his bastard. Lloyd shot Gittins through a window. At Bodmin, James Holman will surely be hanged for the brutal murder of his wife, then pregnant. He killed her with a hatchet; and after hiding the weapon, fetched in his neighbours, saying his wife had fallen on the grate. Holman predicted the death of his wife, and had proposed for her sister!

The sentence of death passed upon Abel Burrows, for the murder of Charity Glenister, has been commuted into sentence of penal servitude for life.

A terrible murder and suicide has been perpetrated in Clarence-gardens, near Regent's Park. Behind with his rent, and fearful of an execution in the house, with a prospect of the workhouse, James Martin, shoemaker, first cut the throat of his wife and then cut his own. The bodies were found, dressed in night-clothes, lying one over the other, on the bed, on Wednesday morning. Martin left behind him a letter to his landlord, declaring that he would kill his wife and himself, as he could not pay his rent.

The alleged fraudulent hay-contractors, "Sturgeon and Sons, of Grays, Essex," have petitioned Parliament for a full examination of their case.

The upsetting of a naphtha lamp caused a severe loss by fire, on Tuesday, at the West India Docks. The Master's office and storehouse were burnt down; but fortunately no vessels were destroyed. The vessels in the river sent their crews to assist the firemen.

The famous clipper *Marco Polo*, carrying 661 emigrants to Australia, got ashore off Melbourne, and it was feared she could not be got off. No lives were lost.

PALE ALE IN INDIA.—"I fear when the genuine Cockney carelessly reads the words 'Allsopp's India Ale,' in going through the streets of London, he seldom realises to himself the delight with which the weary traveller in India or Ceylon sees these words on the outside of a full bottle—I say a full bottle, for your planter has as little affection for an empty one as Falstaff had for an 'unfilled can.' Champagne is an excellent drink if you do not anticipate a dinner after it; but for a breakfast after a hard ride, or a luncheon in the jungle, there is nothing equal to the sparkling glass of cool ALLSOPP. The frame is perhaps on fire, this is the potion to extinguish the flame; exhausted with physical or mental fatigue, with the thermometer ranging between 80 deg. and 90 deg., nothing is half so gently inspiring as the white-capped draught of Pale India Ale: but then it must be of the right description, not opened a month too early or too late—a gentle simmer of white foam on the top—not breaking out into a deluge of froth, which proves it over ripe, nor having to be coaxed into a little foam, which proves it too flat. But it must be quaffed, not hurriedly, but without pause; be the quantity large or small, it should not remain in the glass a minute."—*Knighon's Forest Life in Ceylon*.

Postscript.

SATURDAY, April 1st.

BOTH Houses last night debated the Address in reply to the Royal Message. In the House of Lords it was moved by Lord CLARENDON, and was worded as follows:—

"That a humble address be presented to her Majesty, to return to her Majesty the thanks of this House for her most gracious message, and for the communication of the several papers which have been laid before it in obedience to her Majesty's commands; to assure her Majesty of the just sense we entertain of her Majesty's anxious and uniform endeavours to preserve to her people the blessings of peace, and of our perfect confidence in her Majesty's disposition to terminate the calamities of war, whenever that object can be accomplished consistently with the honour of her Majesty's Crown and the interest of her people; that we have observed with deep concern that her Majesty's endeavours have been frustrated by the spirit of aggression displayed by the Emperor of Russia in his invasion and continued occupation of the provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia, in the rejection of equitable terms of peace proposed under the sanction of the four principal Powers of Europe, and in the preparation of immense forces to support his unjust pretensions; that these pretensions appear to us subversive of the independence of the Turkish empire; that we feel that the trust reposed in us demands on our part a firm determination to co-operate with her Majesty in a vigorous resistance to the project of a Sovereign whose further aggrandisement would be dangerous to the independence of Europe."

Lord Clarendon expressed his deep sense of the importance of the occasion which terminated a peace which it was hoped would never have been interrupted.

He spoke in terms of praise of the public spirit which had been exhibited by the country notwithstanding the sacrifices which the war would entail upon them; and expressed his belief that the opinion of the people was favourable to the policy which had been pursued by the Government, and which had tended in his belief to create the spirit which now predominated. He stated that the conduct of the Emperor of Russia alone had induced the production of the secret and confidential correspondence recently published; but he felt satisfaction that it had seen the light, because it had proved that the course of the Government had been straightforward and honest; their disbelief in the approaching dissolution of Turkey, and scouted any idea of her dismemberment. They pointed out the course the Emperor should take with regard to Turkey, and received his promise so to act,—not only on the word of an emperor, but a gentleman—not to the Cabinet, but the Queen! He read an autograph letter from the Czar, containing an opinion that Turkey should not be humiliated by overbearing demands on the part of any of the great Powers. That was in April last, and before the real nature of Menschikoff's mission was known, and would have led any one to believe that Turkey was safe from any aggression from Russia. He then went into a summary of the acts of aggression by the Czar on Turkey, and the negotiations which have taken place. He declared that a sense of duty and national honour which had induced this country and France to make the final demand of the evacuation of the Principalities, to which there was no answer from the Emperor; and he declared that the war was undertaken from no selfish motives, but from a sense of duty and honour, and self-respect only. He stated that he was not yet able to lay the text of the convention with France and Turkey on the table at present, but he could assure the House that it contained no stipulations for a future Protectorate over Turkey. The definite object of the war was to repel the unjust aggression of Russia, and to secure an honourable peace, which would prevent Russia from possessing Constantinople. The question was not merely the Eastern question, but that of civilisation itself, which was perilled by the dexterous policy of Russia to cause division among the Western Powers. He said that there was every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of Austria; but the neutrality of Austria and Prussia in the war about to be waged was impossible; he hoped that those two Powers would see their true interest in the coming struggle, and that they would side with us in securing a solid peace, which would only be done by curbing the aggression of Russia, as well as the establishment of the rights of the Christians of Turkey by the Sultan. He concluded with an expression of his belief that he might look with hope and confidence to the result of the war.

The Earl of DERBY said he did not mean to offer opposition to the address, because this was a moment and occasion when there should be no expression or

difference of opinion as to the assistance which Parliament would give to the Crown in this just war. He, however, feared that although the country was unanimous in its feeling in favour of the war, that inadequate conceptions of its extent and duration were entertained both by the country and the Government.

He agreed that the war was one in which the liberties of Europe were involved by the demands of Russia for a Protectorate over Turkey, as much as by her occupation of Constantinople. The question to be decided was the establishment of Russia and Turkey on a footing of entirely separate and independent nations. He did not go along with Lord Clarendon, that the secret despatches showed that the Government were deceived by the Emperor, and he expressed his belief that this war would not have occurred if Lord Aberdeen had not been Prime Minister. He then contended that the whole course of the secret negotiations showed that the Government had conceded the principle of a protectorate by Russia over Turkey. While admitting the necessity and justice of the war, he strongly warned the Government not to treat it as a little affair, and give up their notion of meeting the expenses on the current year. He, however, cordially agreed to the address.

The Earl of ABERDEEN replied with some spirit. The gist of his observations was, that Lord Derby's speech was only a repetition of an article written by Mr. Disraeli in the *Press* newspaper, which was totally inaccurate.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, Earl GRANVILLE, the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, Earl GREY, and the Earl of HARDWICK also spoke, and the Address was agreed to at an early hour, half-past nine.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in the House of Commons, moved the address to the Crown, and at some length went into the causes of the war, vindicated the policy of the Government, and made an earnest appeal to the sympathies and loyalty of the House to support the Crown in the present emergency. A debate followed, which went on till one o'clock. The principal speakers were Mr. LAYARD, who made a vehement attack on the Government, and charged them with surreptitious dealings with the *Times*, and an entire neglect of their positive duty in the conduct of the Eastern Question.

Mr. BRIGHT took the peace side of the question, and made a vigorous speech from that point of view, to which Lord PALMERSTON made a sharp and telling reply.

Mr. DISRAELI, at great length, renewed his bill of indictment against the Ministry, and dwelt strongly on the supposed divisions. He especially charged Lord Aberdeen with being personally the cause of the war, from his conduct with respect to the arrangement alleged to have been made with the Emperor of Russia in 1844, which that monarch had never ventured to act upon during the Governments of Lord J. Russell and Lord Derby, and argued that he was justified in thinking that he would find a faithful adherent in Lord Aberdeen, and on his belief that there was no cordiality between France and this country, judging from the invectives which had been heaped on the ruler of that nation by some of the present Cabinet Ministers.

After a neat reply from Lord J. RUSSELL, the address was unanimously agreed to.

Early in the evening, in answer to the Earl of ROSES, the Earl of ABERDEEN stated that it was the intention of the Government to set apart a day for public prayer for the success of her Majesty's arms, of which the Archbishop of CANTERBURY expressed his approval.

The Hebdomadal Board gained a narrow victory yesterday. They prepared a petition denouncing the bill submitted by Government to Parliament, and praying that, in lieu of the proposed measure, Parliament will be pleased to pass a merely enabling act, allowing the existing Hebdomadal Board to make such changes in the government of the university as it may think desirable, and empowering colleges, with the consent of their visitors, to alter their statutes, or, if they think it preferable, to retain them unaltered, with the single exception of oaths against change, of which Parliament should, it is allowed, enforce the abolition.

This petition was debated in Convocation yesterday afternoon, and only carried by a majority of two. The numbers were—for the petition, 193; against it, 191. After such a decision the petition will have little weight with the Parliament.

Our Preston correspondent forwards the following, dated yesterday:—

"In estimating the number of immigrant hands, I find that 10 workers from Manchester and 9 from Lancaster have been omitted. Yesterday afternoon 92 hands arrived from Bedfordshire, of whom about 77 were fit for the mills, and about 70 Irish from the Liverpool Union Workhouse, of whom 35 are likely to be available. I may also notice the return of 8 persons, per train, as useless. From this it would seem that the balance of accessions of hands to the mills during the week does not exceed 200, and taking the deficit at 14,000, it will take about 70 weeks to stock the mills at the present rate."

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

On Liberty, cried Madame Roland, what crimes are committed in thy name! I find that I have been accused, like our historian Titmarsh in his chapters on anobs, of infringing club law by my disclosures last week; and am threatened, both in St. James's and in Covent-garden, with banishment for breach of privilege! I, who quail not at a House of Commons' committee, to be scared by the council of my clubs! The City dinner on the 25th was the best effort of Mansion-house hospitality I ever remember. Good company, hot soup, average sherry (I wasn't one of the guests at the dais), and one bottle of Burgundy, obligingly procured for me by Mr. Deputy Obbard, which recalled the souvenirs of "the Vatel" twenty years ago! Alas! this is the "cavum pejus" of prandial entertainments in Paris. The Lord Mayor has made his peace with the West-end, despite the "*Morning Advertiser*," who fans a flame between Court and City. The Under-Secretary of the Board of Control, whom office has only silenced in the House, pleasantly said, that it seemed very appropriate to him to see the present chief magistrate of the City presiding over the happy district east of Temple-bar; inasmuch as, from old associations, he always regarded Sidney as the "decus et tutamen" of Australia Felix—a little far-fetched, but a very allowable, after-dinner joke; and particularly for an Oxford tutor.

My wife complained sadly of her disappointment at the reading of her Majesty's Message in the House of Lords on Monday night. The Reading Clerk performed his function as if he was fumbling over a catalogue of old clothes. Lady M— had prepared herself for trumpets, schawms, Pour-suivant-at-Arms, and a champion to throw down the gage on the floor of the apartment. A clerk or crier with a feeble voice is a *Caput mortuum*.

Mothers of families with precocious sons hail the civil service reform with satisfaction! Out of doors there's no such stout opposition against it; the grave objection seems to be lest Sir Charles Trevelyan should have any hand in the management of the measure. He's the most unpopular Treasury pet ever invested with office; family ties and his meddlesome industry keep him in power; but I never heard a "gentleman" say a good word of him. His blood is red sealing-wax and his heart-strings red tape. My Uncle Foolscap, who's been a civil servant forty years come Midsummer, says the daily return of attendance, &c., by each of his six condutors in his department, ran thus when he first joined:—

From 10 till 11, we assembled—all seven.
From 11 to noon, to begin 'twas too soon.
From 12 to 1, thought what's to be done?
From 1 to 2, found nothing to do.
From 2 to 3, began to foresee,
That from 3 to 4 was a terrible bore.

Rather than this, reform it altogether.

Dr. Barth, the untiring African traveller, has reached Timbuctoo: that hitherto unexplored bourne from whence no traveller has returned. Mr. Petermann, his correspondent here in town, reports, for the benefit of commercial adventurers from 'Change-alley or Cheapside, that the Sheikh-el-Bakay, the ruling chief, has granted a complete inana for any English trader who may wish to visit Timbuctoo. Kind indulgence! Ten to one Mr. Mechi will send a case of razors, Mr. Holloway a box of pills, and ex-Sheriff Nicoll a paletot, ere the year is out.

Covent-garden is to open to-night with *William Tell*. In my youth I encountered Duprez as Arnold (ah! the "Suivez-moi"), at the Academy, and the choir was perfect in Paris at that time. *Labuntur anni*. There is to be no *Etoile du Nord*, though Cramers have purchased the copyright here in England, and Dr. Rimbaud is scoring; it and the publishers have even refused the present use of it to the Queen's band, they say. Madame Goldschmidt, *née* Lind, will annually, I fear, have other things to attend to than the cultivation and care of her charming voice. Oh! these exacting husbands and *pères familiaux*.

Why has my Lord Salisbury closed Hatfield Park against visitors, Cockneys above all. These demesnes, like wealth, property, and power of every description, are merely to be held in trust for the general enjoyment. What man of sense, now-a-days, buries his talents in the earth for his own regards? 'Tis the pleasantest sight to run down on a Sunday, and see the holiday folks in the Botanical Gardens at Kew, thanks to Sir William Commissioner Molesworth, who has overridden the scruples of the anti-sympathetic Sir William Hooker, the resident curator. If the Sydenham Directors are wise, they will open the Crystal Palace grounds on a Sunday, even though it choke Dr. Cumming.

You will rejoice to be assured that there is to be a season of French Plays at the St. James's. Our Mitchell is a capital manager, save that he's a little too much led by the nose by Lafont, the Vieux, the D'Orsay of the Comedians.

Some question exists as to the French "Great Exhibition," next year; though the Sevres people are preparing magnificently for it. The foundations of their vast building, in the Champs Elysées, are shaky; the area is found to be insufficient, and the war epidemic must be attended to. You see that the bands of the regiments in Paris are practising

'God save the Queen' with great unanimity, for the reception of their British companions in arms. The capital is exceedingly gay, and is looking forward anxiously to this great arrival. Gadin's ball, some time back, at which the principal guests were attired as birds and fishes, was thoroughly successful; of course there was an Englishman, Major A—, present, who was announced as Sir Peter Wilkins. There is an *entente cordiale* for young people who dance (the old and fat are interruptive to salutory enjoyments) at the British Embassy on the 19th; 'tis for the benefit of the poorer British residents, so the Emperor takes 2000 francs worth of tickets.

'Tis intended that her Gracious Majesty of Great Britain shall be present, *en dame* merely, at the opening of the Crystal Palace, at Sydenham, on the 24th of May. Month's fountain for the grounds is much admired. The four quarters of the globe are to be portrayed, and to bear appropriate symbols. Surely Australia should rise like the Nazian Venus, the Flower of the Sea? The figures are being cast in plaster by Brucciani, of Drury-lane, whose caves are well worth a visit. He has some studies of animals' heads by Meni, wonderfully life-like. Sir Joseph Paxton has ordered from the same establishment 500 flower vases for temporary use in the Palace grounds; marble vessels will eventually replace them.

Believe me, as I was in company with Sir G. A., a tall man who doesn't distract one's attention, Wednesday was delightful at the Northampton Races. A large and fashionable attendance, with a capital contest for the Great Stakes, won by my Lord Chesterfield's Jacqueline, a mare hardly mentioned in the Ring. There were some heavy spins, owing to Cartwright tripping up with Red Lion; only blows and bruises, no necks broken happily. Thursday I enjoyed another accommodation by the Great Northern Railway: I met Lord Dacre's hounds at Barnet; actually taking my black horse down, there and back, by train for three shillings and sixpence. What fox-hunter grumbles at the railways, I wonder, now, spite of all their cutting up the country? "It isn't the 'unting' 'arts the 'orses; it's the 'ed 'igh way; the constant 'ammer, 'ammer, 'ammer, on the 'ard 'igh way; it 'urts their 'ooves. If you want to go 'unting, 'ire a 'ack and 'ammer, 'ammer, 'ammer 'in." The train, however, is better than a hack.

My Lord Palmerston regrets having slighted Mr. Baines. The Home Secretary, whom even "Canebo" of the *Observer* will not support in this matter, will cede to the President of the Poor Law, make proper amends, and the Honourable and Learned Gentleman will resume his avocations. Nay! he done so. There has been nothing of universal interest in the House this week. Hampstead, Exeter Hall, and St. Barnabas, Pimlico, may care for Inspection of the Nunneries; I can't, for I respect vows in any shape. To balance their slowness in debate, the committees of the House have been very amusing.

Even the wise man of Printing-house-square, the City intelligencer, can't explain the panic in the Money Market. Three weeks back, when the fleet was in the Downs, a rapid rise was reported; now, the mere formality of declaring the object of their departure has driven everything downwards most absurdly. Neuralgia nummi is beyond the physician's cure. Consols having left off at 85½, the famous bet of 10,000l. to 500l. between a very wealthy gentleman, of racing and stock-jobbing notoriety, and one of the many Nobodies of the Exchange, "that Consols would not fall as low as 85 (being at the time of making the bet at 92) by the middle of April," will probably go hard with the millionaire.

The "British Artists" is worth seeing for Harlequin's pictures. He paints a Moor's portrait as richly as Barrow did their country and life with his pen.

Viscount Mahon is in the chair of the Literary Fund dinner on the 3rd of May. Monckton Milnes assumes the presidential seat amongst the supporters of the General Theatrical Fund, on the 10th of April. May there be a good muster at both these boards. I wouldn't care to live in a land where neither authors nor actors were grown.

Messrs. Rose, of the Coalbrook Dale potteries, have issued some charming Parian statuettes. "Eunoë," by Shantens; several subjects from the Fairy Queen (modelled by Mr. Joseph Pitts, a very promising artist); "Britomart, the Knight of Chastity, releasing Amoret," "Britomart unveiling Amoret," "The Vision of the Red Cross Knight," "Sir Calepine rescuing Serena" (to which Hilton has done justice in the National Gallery). A pleasant graceful figure of a young girl bearing an open-mouthed bottle, is a delicate ideal of the Good Wife in the legend of St. Keene and the Cornish Holy Well—the well which gave the privilege to the first of a married couple, who tasted its waters after the ceremony, of supremacy through life. The husband ('tis such a true compliment to the mother-wit of all maids and matrons, that I must repeat it, old as it is) started from the church porch where he left his wife, the moment they were married, but found that she had been to the well the day before, and had taken a bottle of the sacred water to church.

The Wellington Docks have been a good battle-ground. The wonderful Wrangham headed the charge. The St. Katherine, London, East and West India, and Victoria Companies were all arrayed against the intruder. Ayton, son of

Bombay Ayton, made his first bow as a Parliamentary counsel. The Victoria Dock Company, who only obtained their own position last year, make use of the liberty given them to live, by trying to stifle the life of the Wellington competitor. And yet the existing area is over-crowded, and ship-owners want more accommodation for their craft. Cheltenham and Newcastle are asking for Waterworks: Cheltenham, with its healing waters, wants the proper means of washing itself. Newcastle is as dirty as Brentford, both being situate near noble rivers, and without water supply. Of course there were opposing interests: else what would Coppeck, Merewether, Bircham, or Burke do?

Tooth and nail have the broad and narrow gauge rivals displayed in the committee on the proposed lines to the Cannock mining district, South Staffordshire—plague on both Houses! I think the narrow gauge is most convenient, handy, and workable. Long distances and large weights only want such expensive accommodation as the Great Western gives. Mixed gauges are like all compoundings—error, absurdity, insufficiency, useless outlay—the worth of each is simply stifled by their combination. There was a rare row between Burke and Locke. Dead Lock you may call him, for he defies all the counsel, cunning catechisms as they all are. One piece of Mr. Harkshaw's evidence is a plum for "shareholders in railways." The Lancashire and Yorkshire Line cost 65,000*l.* per mile. Oh! the gutta-percha-like elasticity of greediness! Mr. Huddleston, who is the Buck of the Bar, managed the Dungarvan case admirably. "The dress officers," as the old Duke used to say, "are the best officers."

There was but a poor Drawing-room: only nine pretty women presented—one, of course, was a Seymour. The Queen was in unmistakably good spirits.

The ways of Mr. Scott Russell's mammoth of marine architecture—a paddle-wheel and screw steam-ship, over 23,000 tons, modern measurement—have been laid down! The Thames is too small for such Titanic Thaumaturgists.

The Garrick, that cynosure of clubs for convenience and commonplace, easy accommodation, is, they tell me, about to enlarge itself. The best coffee-rooms, baths, a billiard-room, and additional smoking agreeableness for visitors, are about to be the accessories. Why is it so difficult to obtain election? Why am I like Mahomet's coffin between heaven and earth?

I must protest, as a South-Eastern shareholder, against the insinuating Mr. Laing into the chair of the Amalgamated Companies. I don't think him above an average business man; and if the matter progresses, will have a full and searching inquiry into the agreement, expenditure, &c., touching the Crystal Palace branch of the Brighton line; and the totality of interest with that World's Wonder at Sydenham almost thrust down the throats of the South-Coast shareholders.

M. M.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1854.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ANOLD

"THE RIGHT OF SEARCH."

THE QUESTION WITH AMERICA REVIVED.

A SEPARATE, but a serious, question arises out of the Declarations issued by Government to regulate the conduct of the war. As the matter now stands, it would appear that the British Government claims the right of seizing and examining any foreign vessel. Our readers are of course well aware that on this subject the English and American Governments entertain opinions diametrically opposed. The English Government considers that, for *bonâ fide* purposes of inquiry, it is competent to any ships bearing the Queen's commission to arrest the ship of another country at sea, not being a war-ship, and to examine it to ascertain whether or not it has on board articles declared to be contraband according to English law, under the sanction of international law,

as interpreted by English authorities. The case, as of course our readers recollect, was last called into active question under the proceedings of our cruisers during the slave-trade. We had been joined by other foreign Powers,—the United States included,—in declaring slave-trade piracy; and the English Government arrogated to itself the right of boarding any vessel reasonably suspected of bearing slaves, and of examining that vessel in order to ascertain the fact. The American Government held that the vessel ought to derive protection from the American flag. It was conceded, indeed, that the flag itself may be fraudulently assumed; and therefore it was admitted that English officers would have a right to board the ship for the purpose of examining its papers; but it was held that if the papers proved to be according to rule, then the ship should go absolutely free, or be subject only to American authority. At that time England waived the right of search, though not abandoning it in form, and trusted to the active co-operation of American cruisers.

The same question is now raised by the opening of the war with Russia; and the difference of the circumstances gives to it not only a somewhat altered bearing, but also a more practical importance. Whatever our zeal on the subject of the slave-trade, our interest in conquering the enemy,—who, if we do not conquer him, may accomplish that feat upon us,—is infinitely more urgent and palpable. There are real grounds for retaining a right of search. It is quite possible to carry the fraud beyond the flag to the papers; and, considering the example which the Czar has set, we have no reason to suppose that Russia would scruple to forge fictitious documents on any grounds of moral distinction between bunting and paper. We have no reason to suppose, on the other hand, that Americans might not be found who would join Russia so as to give colour to the fraud; for, unfortunately, whatever may be the sharp practice of our American brethren, we have even stronger grounds for suspicion in remembering that commercial motives have induced Englishmen to attempt the same nefarious trade. It is only by process of law that exports of gunpowder from this country to the enemy, intended for use against this country and its allies, have been prevented. Astounding sophistications of the peace doctrine have contributed to warp or undermine the moral sense of men in this matter. It is, therefore, not as a reproach that we suppose it possible to find amongst Americans persons open to the same suspicions. It is the consanguinity with Englishmen which makes us mistrust the absolute refusal of American citizens to join in so atrocious a trade. For atrocious it would be, that republicans who have some sense of government,—the more venerated because the whole body of the people share in it,—could join in the schemes of that Power which defies law, substitutes oppression for government, and has introduced a more shameless fraud than the Middle Ages could well match. Now, the stoppage of actual war supplies is too manifestly proper to be disputed. Is it, therefore, on practical grounds that Englishmen must deliberate before they surrender the right of search.

Nevertheless, it does appear to us that the American case is complete. Properly put, it stands thus. To war upon a friendly power, or to abet an enemy of that power, is a breach of law. In committing the act, the American becomes liable to punishment; but he is liable to his own law; and his own country can claim the right to deal with him. Especially can America claim that privilege, since there is no charge of inefficiency against the American tribunals or executive. America understands her duty, and is quite able to en-

force it. If, therefore, there be a grievance, present the case to the American Government, and justice will be rendered.

It appears to us that this case is incontrovertible; and a precedent for settling the question, which is now under discussion between the American and English Governments, is suggested by what happened in the previous case. We not do mean that any exact convention would be necessary; but the principle is to this country applicable now. The relation of America is different from that of other foreign Powers, in the consanguinity which no temporary quarrels can abolish; in her inherent sympathy with free institutions, and in the frankness with which she has set the example of many international improvements. It is America that has abolished letters of marque, and has made that great sacrifice of old belligerent "rights" at the shrine of pure justice. On these grounds the English Government might well say that it reposes confidence in America; it might treat the case of America as special, and might fairly make a declaration, virtually handing over to America the duty of seeing that no injustice be rendered to England or to the cause of freedom in Europe at the hands of Americans. England might say, "Here is a plain duty to be performed, in preventing the use of the American flag, of American papers or ships, for the conveyance of articles contraband of war: we respect American authority, and forego any right to search American vessels: we accept the showing of American papers as final; fully trusting that the American Government will see that its authority, and the flag or documents which attest that authority, shall not be prostituted to the purposes of the enemy."

If that declaration were made by the English Government, we believe that America would do full justice to the trust reposed in her,—would act under a sense of the responsibility entailed by that noble trust, and would defend her own flag and authority against ignoble uses.

AFFAIRS AT PRESTON.

THE fate of the Preston *coup d'état* is doubtless a grievous disappointment to the ingenious inventors of that now celebrated measure. It is tantalising to have one's pet scheme set at naught; more provoking to find oneself exposed to the consequent derision of the world; but the cruellest cut of all is to discover, when too late, that the plot from which so much advantage was to accrue has put us into a worse position than before, and that our ruin comes from the very quarter from whence the high tide of our fortune was to flow. It is precisely in this very disagreeable dilemma that the Associated Masters of Preston find themselves involved at the present moment.

The truth is, that these gentlemen labour under the disadvantage of being ill-advised. Perhaps they are not individually capable of managing their own affairs. That seems admitted; or why combine? But if they must have a counsellor, why not take some large-minded, and liberal Prime Minister into their counsels? If they had taken this precaution, the long catalogue of their blunders would have been spared; we should never have heard of resolutions dictating what the price of a marketable commodity should be at some future and indefinite period; we should never have heard of continual adjournments, without something being done to lighten the darkness of the operatives and shed some balm of conciliatory kindness over the rankling sores which their proud unfriendliness had bred; we should not have heard of these late attempts at prosecuting the delegates, that silliest and most spiteful

of ~~reforms~~. At the outset of the battle the conduct of the masters was, at any rate, ~~but~~ straightforward — obstinate if you will, but still obstinately honest; but now there shines through all the proceedings of the association a pettifoggery, obtrusive as the dirty skin of a beggar through his rags. Nowhere is this so plainly perceptible as in the late prosecution, both in the matter of the prosecution and the manner of the same; the spying and prying into the goings-out and the comings-in of the Unionists, the noting down of their unwary words, the employment of one of those privileged sneaks (a police-officer in plain clothes) to dog their every step, and finally the most indecent manner of the prosecution;—all these circumstances conclusively prove that the Associated Masters of Preston are unfortunate in their advisers. But now that the *coup* has fallen short, and another failure has signalled the progress of the battle upon their side, is it not well worth their while at length to take into consideration the absurdity of their position, and really do something indicative of a desire to bring that state of things to a close which is drawing ruin not only upon themselves, but upon a whole community?

In arguing the "Ten per Cent. Question" from a master's point of view, it is customary to charge the operatives with an unreasonable obstinacy in demanding a higher rate of wages than the existing state of trade will warrant,—and to quote, in evidence of this, their war-cry of "Ten per Cent., and no Surrender!" Let us test the justice of this argument by the standard of a few unquestionable facts.

In the summer of last year, a demand for an advance of wages was respectfully made to the Stockport masters, ungraciously refused, and, after a brief struggle of nine weeks, as ungraciously conceded. Was this the first time that the Lancashire masters had heard of "Ten per Cent.?" By no means. For many months previous to this Stockport strike, demands for an advance, and demands warranted by a most prosperous trade, had been universal throughout the district. Wise men gave at once, and cheerfully, such advances as they thought right; the Preston masters growled, but most of them submitted. Five or six of them, however, contrived to quarrel with their hands,—either as to the quantity or manner of the advance, and five or six isolated strikes resulted. It was upon this hint that the Associated Masters of Preston spake. They were an old body; active, at intervals, since 1836, and reorganised for offensive and defensive measures in the month of March, 1853 (long before even the Stockport strike). They repented them of the ten per cent.; so they took the five or six isolated strikes for a text, locked up their mills, and preached up a crusade against the Operatives' Union. The battle was to be one of authority; which was to be the master. *Ten per cent.* was no object; discipline was all they cared about. But on the 4th of November they passed a vote, declaring that *whenever* they re-open their mills the price of wages *must* be regulated according to a certain arbitrary rate. Now, here was an inconsistency. They declared that the question was not one of wages; while, at the same moment, they expressly made it so. They had resorted to a measure, which was fitly termed "an attempt to starve a community into surrender," upon the plea that they were fighting for authority, and then they super-added a condition so absurd and so untenable, that it precludes all possibility of a compromise, and imposes an alternative so degrading that we should sorrow to see free men submit themselves to

it. We say nothing about their bond; we dwell no longer upon the unfair advantage which they have lately taken of their position as magistrates; we comment not upon the expensive but hitherto futile experiment of taking a crowd of dirty paupers into Preston (that is, a rod of scorpions for their own backs); the resolution of the 4th of November alone is sufficient to account for all the weight of public opinion now arrayed against them. It is regarded as despotism, it is regarded as absurd, it is regarded as subversive of all the best interests of trade, as well as an offence against fair dealing, that any one clique of men should arbitrarily dictate the market value of labour.

Looking now at the conduct of the operatives, we admit that in some cases they hastily took offence; that they were occasionally insolent, and very often unreasonable. We admit that the exaction of an *equal* ten per cent. upon all prices alike,—high or low, just or unjust,—was as absurd and as despotic as the resolution of the 4th of November; but (little as it may suit the masters to admit it) the operatives have long since virtually abandoned these primary errors. It may answer the purpose of those who argue the case for the masters to quote the hasty words of their open-air orators, and their popular war-cry quoted above; but the truth is (and the masters know it) that *the operatives are willing to compromise*. Without referring to cases in which a compromise has actually been made, with the full sanction of the Unionists, we may notice that there have been several distinct overtures made to the employers for an equitable adjustment of the matters in dispute. Not only have the leaders of the operatives offered to meet the committee of the Masters' Association, but they have suggested arbitration by impartial persons, as a feasible mode of terminating the struggle. Latterly, an appeal has been made to that combination of employers at Manchester who have taken part in the battle by subscribing for a defence fund, with a view of persuading them to interfere, so as to effect an amicable settlement; but these gentlemen, very inconsistently, replied that they could not interfere, because they had nothing to do with the dispute.

This week we find in our correspondence a resolution passed by a general meeting of the Unionists, professing their willingness to abandon the ten per cent., and to accept an average rate calculated upon the current prices of neighbouring towns. Under these circumstances, and in the face of all these conciliatory advances from the other side, how can the Associated Masters hope to persuade the public into a belief that the prolongation of the dispute is wholly attributable to the operatives? If, instead of instituting bootless prosecutions, and irritating the sore by importing useless paupers into their mills, they would condescend to imitate the tactics of the operatives, by making some slight and just concession, we venture to predict a speedy and happy termination to the Preston Labour-Battle. If they fear that by so doing they will lose any of the proper dignity of their position, let them remember that men are really beaten only when they commit an error, but that they achieve a glorious victory when they candidly and fearlessly acknowledge a fault.

APPROACHING PROMOTION OF CUBA. SPAIN will not leave the American Eagle alone. The Peninsula has been curiously omitted from the storm which is just now gathering over all the rest of Europe. But now she, too, has exposed herself to a storm of her own brewing; and it looks as if the

doom which besets other States, obliging them to seek a conflict in which their own condition and boundaries are to be altered, had been extended to that corner of Europe, and to all the possessions annexed to that corner.

In every particular the Government appears to be disorganised. The army, which is the main strength of any country, the whole body of whose citizens are not armed, is broken up by its own divisions of opinion, by the demoralising influences which have been at work in the military body, and by that administration of the court which beats down the authority of officers through continual removals, disgraces, and other destructive influences. The official departments are prostituted to personal objects; and the administration of the country is but a subservient part of a corrupt court. It is a corrupt administration. The royal family lives in an odour of scandal. It was bad enough during the Queen's minority, when the Queen-Mother was the favourite object of scandalous reports; but now it is the Sovereign herself who is the aim of the satirical shafts; and the stories related of her point not only at breach of conventional law, but at such disregard of good taste as could be found in this country only amongst degraded classes. Spain has always boasted of some independence towards Rome, and although distinguished by being the native country of the Inquisition in its highest flower, the boast has hitherto been partly true; but the Church is now broken down, in great part by the spoliation of Church and conventual property, and Spain has become reconciled to Rome under circumstances which may be said almost to add spiritual to social and political degradation. The insolvency of the finances is notorious all over Europe, and quotations of Spanish stock, new projects for imparting a little life to bonds indistinguishably "active" or "deferred," is a standing joke on the English Stock Exchange. The country could well furnish activity to railways; for there are portions of it which more than survive the national degeneracy—which have, in fact, developed an industry worthy of a better country. The projects for establishing railways were in themselves not altogether ill contrived; but the very fact of their being objects of Government patronage threw suspicion on them, and at once suggested very intimate relations between the Court and those enterprises. In fact, some of the romance of Capel-court has been repeated at Madrid, with the highest personages in the country for the *dramatis personæ*. Of course this went far to destroy the credit of railway enterprise in Spain, and although the communes talked of giving their guarantee, the fact that the court was a partner in the undertaking was fatal to its acceptance in the country where the capital is to be found. Spain can never flourish, nor have commerce and railways suited to the energy and intelligence of her best inhabitants, so long as she has her present Government. A revolution in Spain would be the only process for restoring to her something that makes law worth having.

It is under these circumstances, as if not a portion of her dominions should be left without commotion, that Spain keeps up in Cuba a series of irritations against the United States. Two more vessels have been seized at Havannah, and so far as accounts reach us, seized on the most frivolous pretext. The *Black Warrior*, a steam-ship, conveying cotton from Mobile to New York, was seized because she had, or was said to have, some portion of cargo on board which was not in the manifest; and this, it is pretended, was a breach of the Cuban revenue laws. On the

other side, it is alleged that it has not been the custom in Cuba to overhaul cargo under such circumstances; and a protest has been laid before the President of the United States. He has sent a message to Congress, accompanied with proofs of perfidy on the part of Spain, and he asks the support of Congress in obtaining redress. Of course not in vain. There is not a single ground, except the one of possession, on which Spain can claim the retention of Cuba. In the state of disturbance which threatens the world, it is most likely that the United States would find it necessary to take military possession of the island which commands the mouth of the Mississippi. A period of quiet has been allowed to Spain by the forbearance of the United States; but Spain has neglected to profit by it. It is of no use to say that the authorities of Cuba are responsible for those mistakes; it is Spain who appoints these authorities; and if she puts in office men who do not know their duty towards the great and powerful republic, by whose forbearance Cuba has remained Spanish, the fault will be not of America but Spain. It may be said, indeed, that Spain herself is not responsible, since she has no national solidity, no national Government; but divided between Southern provinces, devoted only to luxury and the memory of past pride, Western provinces fraternising with Portugal, whose chronic revolution is less anarchical than the absolute Government of Spain, and the North-eastern provinces, whose industrious energy is kept down by infamous government, Spain has no national unity, and is at the mercy of the most shameless court in Europe. But that nation which cannot appoint its own Government, has itself to blame if it loses, through the want of government; and if it should become necessary to take Cuba from Spain, to Spain must be allotted the blame of having lost the island. Possession is nine points of the law; but the only virtue of possession is strength.

Should our expectations be realised, and the transfer of the island to the American republic be soon accomplished, the benefit ought to accrue to other countries beside Cuba itself. It is time that the world should be taught the great political truth, that they who cannot keep do not deserve to have. The country which has not in itself sufficient sagacity, will, and strength to retain its own possessions, does not deserve those possessions; and if any country in the world wishes to retain its place in the political map, it must summon to itself all the strength, the will, and the sagacity which it can muster. The seizure of Cuba would settle the question of the Spanish sovereignty. If Mary deplored the loss of Calais, to Isabella the loss of Cuba would be the loss of crown and throne. But dream-like as it looks, it is possible that by the loss of the island, Spain might realise the project of a comparatively small party, and annex to herself the sister kingdom of Portugal. At all events, out of the concussion towards which Spain is hastening with the impetuosity of insane feebleness, something better must arise; and while Cuba is permitted to be one of the States of the greatest republic of the West, the Iberian peninsula may once more re-establish herself amongst the nations of Europe.

ULTIMA RATIO.

WAR AND ASSASSINATION.

THE Manchester School is rather at sea. The peace policy has evidently been a mistake; and from being in the van of the whole country, triumphant in leading a successful policy, Manchester finds itself in the rear of the whole country; like a sleepy tra-

veller who, taking a station for the end of a journey, gets out in drowsy enjoyment of a welcome home, and sees the train slide by and out of sight, leaving him as helpless behind as a goods truck dropped astern. That party are maintaining a policy that is universally considered to be, not only unsuccessful, but beneath debate. Their own man, Cobden himself, dares not debate. He only satisfies his conscience by an occasional protest in parenthesis. Opportunity after opportunity is offered to him for furthering the dominant dogma of the day, by assertions of pure peace doctrine; but he never stands manfully forward. Last night was an occasion, and a friend of the Manchester School, whose singleminded zeal he must have known, had prepared him with a motion as audacious to profanity as fanaticism could desire. He was advised to move the following resolution as an amendment on the address, in answer to the Queen's Message:—"That when Christ ordered Peter to sheath his sword, it was the opinion of this House, that he was decidedly mistaken."

The worthy gentleman considered that this professed resolution would be a *reductio ad absurdum*; but does he forget the words of Jesus, who said on occasion, "I come not to bring peace, but a sword." This non-success of the Manchester policy, however, has made the students of the School pause. Something *must* be wrong, for Manchester is failing; and they begin to suspect that they have mistaken the station. A few of the more candid are beginning to discover that before they can determine this question of peace or war, about which they have so summarily delivered an opinion, they have to inquire a little further. Amongst other things into which they have to carry these researches is the history of their own country, and truly in investigating that erudite branch of inquiry, they discover, to their astonishment, that civilisation has sometimes been beholden for victory or defence to that which they would leave summarily in the hands of the barbarian—to the sword!

Strange to discover, in the middle of the nineteenth century, that Might is not altogether alien from Right, but is essentially a part thereof. Right is the union of conviction and power. That which you think you ought to do, and you can do, you "have a right to do." It is "right" for you to do that which you think you ought, and which you can. If others think that you ought to do a thing, and they can let you do it, you have a right to do it so far as they are concerned. Conviction and power therefore are the elements of right; and those who seek for any closer definition will, we believe, find it impossible to pursue the analysis further.

Many would test Right by justice, and would say, that is Right which is equitable; but persons differ as to equity; and if you look closely you will see that this question of equity is in fact only one portion in the ingredients of conviction. Before you can have a conscientious persuasion, you must believe in the justice of a proposal; and the justice of it is the test of your conviction. On the other hand, conscientious conviction, which is without power, is not Right; not only because, in fact, it must remain an abstraction without accomplishment, but because, besides being persuaded that you ought to do a thing, you must earn or acquire the power to do it; and when you have fulfilled that condition, *sine quâ non*, you have completed your "Right."

We revive this consideration, because it has some important bearing upon the practical action of the world in this present day, and to such of our readers as accompany action by reflection, it may be a test for considering the right course. The right of one

side, indeed, may be superseded by the right of another. Hypocrisy does sometimes accompany sincerity of heart, when that heart is brutalised by superstition; still it is difficult in so glaring a case to imagine that the Emperor of Russia can be sincere. Let us, however, for a moment take it for granted that he may be so. In that case, believing that he ought to subdue Europe to a Russian autocracy, he would have the right to do it, if he had the power; a question which he is about to try experimentally. We believe that we ought to resist him; we think we have the power; and we are about to try the question experimentally too. That we understand true policy far better than the Emperor; that we have a clearer insight into national as well as commercial economy; that we have arrived at a truer wisdom for developing political institutions; that our social arrangements respecting individual and class freedom are calculated to render the state relatively far more powerful than his; that our religion, admitting all the lights which science has derived from divine works, is more pure than his; that our conception of duty, individual, social, and political, is more perfect and more exalted than his; are conclusions which we shall all be willing to grant to ourselves. But let us ask what would be the use of our being able to teach the nations how to live, if, in studying those questions closet wise, we should have permitted ourselves to become so enervated, that Russia could demolish all our operations for scientifically convincing the world, by the one simple weapon, the sword, and thus have put us out of the field. Philosophy itself if of no use to mankind, unless it can obtain a standing either in the hearts of men, or under the protection of the sword. We have as against Russia all that part of right which consists in earnest conviction; and if we are not mistaken, we have the other part of right, which consists in the power; and philosophy itself will have to thank physical force that it comes forward to put down the barbarian who is about to burn the Alexandrian library of civilisation.

But the physical force which kings employ on a large scale may be turned against them. Shape it how you will, the resort to life-destroying weapons is that ultima ratio which determines questions between states, or between governors and people. The Emperor of Russia, unable to convince Europe that it ought to submit itself to Slavonic or Cossack dominion, puts the problem into its ultimate shape; and if, by the blessing of Providence, we have studied the dynamics of gunpowder and lead as successfully as he has, we shall be able to force conviction upon him in his own territory; and thus civilisation will maintain its footing by dint of physical force. The King of Naples, unable to convince his subjects that he is a man of godlike attributes, endeavours to enforce the results which he desires by using the ultima ratio against them, not only in the retail way, by cannon, but in the form of wholesale assassination, by espionage and fatal poison. Naples it may be said is continually undergoing assassination, by its representative men, at the hands of its kings. The people of Parma have retorted the same species of argument against their pocket Sovereign. A "Tiberius in 18mo," as the Florentine satirist calls him, who had kept his Duchy in a state of siege ever since 1848,—who has carried arbitrary confiscation and suppression as far as greater tyrants,—who has in fact assassinated his own state,—has been met on that ground by an anonymous combatant: he was stabbed, took to his bed, and died. English feeling calls out with horror at the assassin, forgetting that arbitrary monarchs themselves continue to enjoy the privilege of assassination, and that by their tyranny, their espoin-

age, their body-guards, and all their precautions against the assassin whom they defy, they do in reality place themselves far beyond that moral law which shields more harmless and unguarded men from death inflicted without notice. But we are told, to discourage this last responsibility of arbitrary Monarchs, that the assassin is never successful. Now that fiction we have denied; and let us take note of the present example. The cruel and paltry Duke of Parma, the instrument of whose will has been his Yorkshire Prime Minister, Baron Ward, has been assassinated; and the Duchess, becoming Regent during the minority of her son, acting under the advice of her Ministers, has exiled Baron Ward for ever. Really it seems as if in assassinating the Duke, the anonymous Scævola has assassinated the system.

THE PROGRESS OF INDIA—ITS OBSTRUCTIONS AND THEIR REMEDIES.

(SECOND ARTICLE.)

We do not willingly choose a criticism of Colonel Cotton's book* as a mode of exhibiting our views of the principles which should animate, and the errors which impede, the march of Indian progress. But, in truth, our repugnance to express any difference from so energetic a worker in the cause cannot blind us to the tendency of what we believe to be his mistakes. We gladly give all honour to Colonel Cotton for his long and steadfast promotion of Indian progress, and for his invaluable public works; moreover, there are parts of his book with which we most cordially agree, and to which we invite the earnest attention of our readers; but the credit justly due to him may give the greater effect to his errors (if errors they be), unless timely discussion be interposed.

Let us distinguish between the two characters of the author. So far as he speaks from his own knowledge he is one of the best of authorities; so long as he is engaged in actual works we believe him to be one of the best of executive officers. He begins to err when he begins to generalise from his own experience. Moreover, he applies his mistaken generalisations to cases of which the facts are but imperfectly known to him.

The position of an earnest British engineer officer, in a remote district of India, is one of deep and serious interest. Surrounded only with natives, who are unconscious of the nature and value of his objects, and isolated from the social stir of science and enterprise, he peers as well as he can, through books, into the active and advancing world far from him. News comes but rarely—news to his purpose more rarely still; and while he pursues the duties of the day, congenial to his aspirations or not as may happen, he muses on the wants of the people amongst whom he lives, and feels, often perhaps but too truly, that the designs in which he would willingly spend his best days for their benefit, can never force their way through the remote dead weight of office above him. We can gladly give credit to Colonel Cotton for all which this implies, and for much more; but it is not the less true that such a situation has its own tendency to errors; and when a mind of energy like his has been subjected to its disadvantages, it is doubly necessary to apply due correction to its conclusions.

We agree most heartily with the author when he attacks, as one of the greatest hindrances to improvement, the standing absurdity of making the mere mode of collecting the revenue, the great question of India. Nothing can show more strikingly how much we have been led astray by our popular exclusion from that country, than the mistaken and most mischievous prominence given to this question in relation to it, which at home is justly deemed only one (and not the greatest) out of many considerations on which our welfare depends. Our Indian services, like their native predecessors, are divided into schools, if not into parties, on this matter; and few among them think how necessary a consequence of the waste of time, labour, water, land, and all natural advantages, is that difficulty of realising revenue which neither ryotwarry, mouzawarry, nor zemindary has ever yet overcome. When, however, Colonel Cotton, like many others, goes on to conclude that, because taxes would be more easily collected if India were well supplied with public works, therefore it is the business of the Government to construct and manage those works, our concurrence must cease; and we point to England, where government and taxation have all the advantages to be derived by them from works which it was the just province of private enterprise alone to construct.

* Public Works in India; their Importance. With Suggestions for their Extension and Improvement. By Lieut.-Col. Cotton, Chief Engineer, Madras. Allen and Co., London, 1854.

Again, when Colonel Cotton urges the vast loss to which India is exposed by delay in the execution of public works, we can respond most heartily to almost every word of his general remarks, reserving only our dissent from his calculations and details. But when he blames the Government for that delay we must part company, and show that no Government or governors in India can ever construct the works which the country needs, and that if they could, still higher considerations require that those works should not be committed to their hands.

Written probably with but an indistinct purpose of publication, and put forth without the advantage of the author's own supervision, Colonel Cotton's book is diffuse and irregular in its structure, and does not afford the reader the facility even of an index. Its principles and its distinguishing assertions are, however, somewhat as follows:—

Public works ought to be made on a system; and they ought to be in the hands of Government. Railroads on the English plan, which he calls "grand railways," can never be constructed rapidly enough to relieve the country, or carry cheaply enough for the due development of its resources. Water in vast quantities may be stored with amazing cheapness. This water may render rivers navigable to the extent of 5000 miles. Steam canals may be constructed to be worked even more advantageously than rivers. The stored water may also be employed in irrigation to the creation of incredible wealth. Cheap single railways, of a peculiar construction, may be established where other means of transit are ineligible. On these lines of various kinds transit may be effected for a charge to the public of one-eighth of a penny per ton per mile! India with these means of production would maintain a population of 400 to a square mile, or four times its present number, and produce a revenue for the Government of 600 millions sterling per annum; even with its present population 160 millions might be realised. The more perfect and speedy transit afforded by railways may be had when the country has thus grown richer.

Willing, however, as we are to entertain the most glowing hopes for the future of India, and satisfied as we are that such hopes may have a firm and reasonable basis provided for them, we are bound to say that the arguments by which Colonel Cotton endeavours to establish his own system fail at almost every step.

It will be seen that two classes of subjects are involved in these questions, viz.: those relating to physical and engineering facts,—and those relating to principles of administration, of industrial economy, and of the duties of Government. We think our author fails in respect of both. We take first the physical facts and their application; and since our space does not permit us to follow Colonel Cotton all over India, from the Tanjore to the Jumna, we shall probably best accomplish the objects of this discussion by rendering as clear as the present state of information will permit the one case which most frequently presents itself in this book, that of the Godavery river, and the proposed improvements in the country through which it flows. Happily the available facts are least incomplete in relation to this case.

First, Colonel Cotton says that the basin of the Godavery contains 130,000 square miles—that the water which annually runs off the land within this area—that is, the surplusage of the rain-fall beyond evaporation and the absorption by vegetation—is of the average depth of 2 feet, and that this amount, which reaches to 2,065,066 cubic yards per square mile, or 268,458 millions of cubic yards for the whole basin, is available for irrigation and transit. Let us inquire, however, first what the amount really is, and then whether it can be made available in the ways Colonel Cotton suggests.

The Colonel's estimate of the area of the basin seems to us about one-seventh too great, but the difference is not material, and we retain his measure of 130,000 square miles. The annual fall of rain in ordinary years is, at Secunderabad, from 32 to 44 inches, at Bolaram from 25 to 30, at Jaulnah 32, at Nagpore 31, and at Kamptee 40. In the British Collectorate of the Deccan, about the head waters of the Godavery, but not including the Ghauts, Colonel Sykes found it on an average of five years only 23½ inches. We can hardly, then, take the average at more than 30 inches. The rains on the crest of the Western Ghauts amount often, in this latitude, to 180 inches; but they do not extend, in any unusual quantity, more than 30 miles to the eastward: Poona is beyond them. About 105 inches is therefore their average depth, if they decrease equally to their limit, and the area on which they fall, so far as they flow into the Godavery, is about 80 miles from north to south, and 30 from east to west. From these elements it follows that the rain of the whole basin of the Godavery amounts in ordinary years to 351,770 millions of cubic yards. This, however, is liable to a reduction of one-half in the case of a scanty monsoon.

But of this, here as everywhere beside, only part is available;—how much? Mr. Ellet, in his very valuable Report on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers,

says the annual drainage of the country above Wheeling on the first-named river, on an average of six years, was only 14½ inches out of a rain-fall of 36, or 41 per cent., the rest being evaporated or absorbed in vegetation. In England, out of 36 inches of rain and dew, only 13 inches were estimated by Dalton to be carried off by the rivers, 23 being evaporated or absorbed. The witnesses before the Sanitary Commission assigned a constant quantity of from 15 to 20 inches as evaporated or absorbed, and deemed the rest of the rain-fall available, whatever it might be at any particular spot. These facts would not lead us to anticipate more than 40 per cent. of the rain-fall, or 12 inches out of 30, as available, even if the Godavery were in our colder country. But we have yet to remember that a great part of the country through which that river flows has a considerable elevation above the sea, and consequently a diminished atmospheric pressure, that its temperature is high, and that the rain which falls in many parts almost entirely in four months of the year is left to evaporate during the remaining eight. It is perhaps still more important to remember that a failing monsoon, which gives but half the usual quantity of rain, will give much less than half the usual available surplus, and that we might find not more than 3 or 4 inches available in such years instead of 12: the exhaustion of the tanks and streams at a very earlier period of such years, is a most distressing fact in support of this probability.

Taking, however, 12 inches as the available surplus of the rain-fall, that of the whole basin of the Godavery cannot be estimated at more than 141,000 millions of cubic yards, instead of double that amount, assumed by Colonel Cotton—a quantity indeed vastly too much to be wasted, as at present, but the true statement of which seriously affects the remaining arguments and the degree of reliance to be placed on Colonel Cotton's plans.

The available surplus, whatever its amount, our author proposes to employ in two ways, and his arguments, or rather his calculations of results, require that both should be practicable at the same time; one of these is the rendering the Godavery and some of its branches navigable, the other a universal system of irrigation.

The Godavery has deep water and a strong current, from the commencement of the rains in June until some time after their close in September. For the rest of the year its bed, wide and sandy in many places, is covered only with a very shallow stream, or is traversed by separate rills of water. Now, Mr. Ellet, in his Report before quoted, had proposed to improve the navigation of the Ohio, which a bar at Wheeling impeded, by storing water in immense tanks, to be formed in the mountain districts above that place; which water, retained when it would be useless or injurious as a flood, might be let out to raise the river when needful in a drier time. This system, which in suitable circumstances has great merit, Colonel Cotton proposes to apply to the Godavery. Unfortunately the parallel fails; and a few facts will show the state of the case.

We take first that part of the Godavery which lies between the British (or late British) frontier, in long 75½ degrees east, and a point about 3½ degrees further east, a part essential to the whole and more favourable than any other to the application of the proposed plan. Now here the river is rarely so little as a quarter of a mile wide, oftener near twice, and sometimes four times that width. Facts connected with the nature of its bed do not permit us to suppose a fall of much less than one foot per mile. If, with this fall, we suppose a bed of 700 yards wide, a stream of 6 feet deep, and an average of 1 foot depth of water in the channel already, we shall find by ordinary calculations that we should expend about 2½ millions of cubic yards of water per hour, or for eight months, 12,780 millions; and not merely 3000 millions, which Colonel Cotton deems ample, or even 9000 millions, which, to provide for contingencies, he proposes to store.

Now the whole available surplus on and above this part of the river (deducting 41,000 millions cubic yards from the whole for that of the Whurda) is only 100,000 millions, supposing it all stored; in failing years certainly not half, probably not one-fourth of that quantity. So that if only half the surplus were stored, and that reduced again to a half or a fourth by the failure of the rains, giving a stock of from 12,000 to 50,000 millions, according to the season, the river, requiring 12,780 millions, must either take the water away from the parching land on whose irrigation the lives of the people had come to depend, or it must be left dry, and so would the carriage of supplies from abroad be cut off.

From this, then, even if there were nothing worse, it is evident that the two objects of universal irrigation and of a practicable river are here not compatible with each other; a choice must be made between them, one or the other; and it can hardly be doubted a railway, which no failure of seasons would disturb, and which left all the water to be turned to other uses, in which nothing can supply its place, is the true instrument of carriage for the valley of the Godavery.

Two other facts strengthen this view of the case.

Below the confluence of the Whurda the river, which in some parts is tortuous, narrow, and difficult, expands in others to a width of 3 miles. If, however, we suppose only a width of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, a fall of 6 inches per mile, and a depth of 2 feet of water to be supplied in addition to 1 foot assumed, but very doubtfully, to be there, we should want nearly 28,000 millions of cubic yards of water per annum, an increase on the former quantity which the basin of the Whurda does not justify us in expecting for such a service. Moreover, the elevation above the sea at which General Cullen crossed the Godavery at Nandair (1152 feet), and the Whurda at Natchingham (715 feet), together with the nature of the bed of the Godavery for a great distance east of the former place, leave us no possible inference but that a great and rapid fall in the river takes place somewhere about the longitude of 79 deg. E.; and local facts render it nearly certain that this fall of more than 500 feet takes place in about 70 miles, giving a slope to the river-bed of nearly 8 feet per mile, or almost twice as great as any profitable navigation has yet surmounted. And even more than this, the country through which a canal must be cut, if this great difficulty is to be avoided by such a measure, is not only physically unfavourable, but is harassed by deadly conflicts between different parties of the Nizam's unruly subjects, and plundered at pleasure by that party which happens at any moment to be the strongest; for which see *Bombay Times*, received by the very last mail.

It would be easy to point out physical facts of a like character in connexion with some of the other rivers which Colonel Cotton proposes to render navigable. The nature of the Whurda, however, as an outlet to Berar and its cotton, renders it desirable that the questions relating both to its own course, and that of the lower part of the Godavery, should be set at rest by a sufficient survey; and the more so as some of the difficulties of the case do not lie on its line.

We come now to the question of irrigation. Here Colonel Cotton ventures on the very singular assertion, that 500 acres per square mile,—that is four-fifths of the whole country,—may be irrigated; and his conclusions require that it should be irrigated by water, which may be so stored as to flow down to cultivated lands on a lower level. Now, if it be recollected that this spontaneous irrigation, by stored water, can only take place on lands below the level on which the rain has fallen, it will be seen at once how impossible it is that so large a proportion as four-fifths should be capable of receiving the water. Colonel Cotton's calculations suppose that two feet of water per annum now runs off the land, and that he had stored it all; then he says, this quantity of water will irrigate 500 acres out of every square mile of 640 acres; and he concludes that from this irrigation will result the stupendous revenue of 600 millions per annum. Now, as we have seen, there is not more than one-half of this quantity of water, and of that half probably no system could ever intercept one-half in its downward flow. But to render the argument palpably absurd, it is supposed, that after the surplus has been collected from the whole country, there still remains four-fifths of the country so much below the level of the ground on which the rain fell, as to be capable of permitting the stored water to flow on it for irrigation.

Happily the progress of India does not depend on the accuracy of such calculations as these. If Colonel Cotton be in error, it is still true that vast areas in India may be fertilised in an extraordinary degree by spontaneous irrigation, besides those which now are, or ought still to be, irrigated; and even more, we believe that there are whole districts where, with other proper appliances, it would amply pay to irrigate the land, although the water were lifted by suitable mechanical means for that purpose. The zeal of this distinguished officer has exerted itself for a most noble object, and we only regret that his arguments afford rather opportunities for willing doubt and delay than the requisite bases of energetic action.

Our limits of space, already far overpassed, do not allow us to remark on the other plans of Colonel Cotton—steam canals, and cheap single railways—as we believe we should show equal cause of distrust in respect of them also. Nor do we hope to arrive at more satisfactory conclusions in discussing, in our next paper, the principles of administration, of industrial economy, and of government on which he proceeds.

MR. JARDINE AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW OF OATHS.

Bow-street afforded a quick illustration of the anomalies in civil equity to which we have adverted as occurring in Edinburgh and Fleet-street. A tradesman in the Strand has now been plundered, and the thief acquitted, because the prosecutor had the misfortune to have a conscience unrecognised in law. The facts of the case have been detailed in a former number, and to us in the following letter,

which we quote, slightly abridged, from the pen of the plaintiff, written on the morning of the trial, and which the press of Parliamentary and War matter has excluded from our columns before:—

"SIR,—The injustice of the present system of receiving evidence in courts of law was illustrated in a case in which I was personally concerned, at Bow-street, this morning. A person had purloined a book from my shop—it was found in his possession by the policeman—I was called upon to identify the property; and, upon my declining to take the usual oath, and requesting permission to make an affirmation instead, Mr. Jardine, the sitting magistrate, inquired of what religious persuasion I belonged to; I replied that I did not profess any religion, and that I was under the impression that an Act of Parliament existed which authorised him to receive the affirmations of those persons who conscientiously objected to take the oath. He endeavoured to find such act. While the reference was being made a case was gone into in which the testimony of a female, the keeper of a brothel, was received without the least hesitation. Mr. Jardine shortly after informed me that my evidence could not be received, the Act of Parliament made no provision for persons of no religious opinions, and the prisoner must be discharged. I ventured to express a hope that he would use his influence as a magistrate in procuring the enactment of a legislative remedy. He answered me to the effect that he hardly thought it necessary, as in all his experience as a magistrate only one other case had come before him where a person had, in a similar manner, objected to take the oath. He then ordered the prisoner to be discharged; and, upon my taking up the book belonging to me, thinking that of course I had a right to my own, another question arose as to whether I could be allowed to take away my own property, and to decide it the magistrate recalled the prisoner and asked him whether he had any objection to my having the book. He replied "no," and I was then informed that I might now take it.

"Such are the bare facts of the case. It is quite unnecessary for me to say more. I leave it in your hands, believing that you will agree with me in thinking that the law in relation to the reception of evidence in courts of justice requires a radical reform.

"E. TRUELOVE.

"Reformers and Free-thinkers' Library, 240, Strand, Feb. 7, 1854."

This sensible letter fills in the shadows of the picture presented in the excellent report given by the *Daily News* of the 8th ult. There are, however, other noticeable features in this case to which we shall advert. We remember that in 1842 Mr. Jardine presented the only instance on record in which a Unitarian magistrate forgot what was due to the consciences of plaintiffs who differed from his worship in opinion. But in this instance we are prompt to own and distinguish that Mr. Jardine behaved more gracefully than any previous metropolitan magistrate has done in a similar case. Mr. Jardine not only avoided insulting Mr. Truelove, but distinctly exonerated him from any possible moral imputation on account of his inability to accept the oath.

But we are bound to notice Mr. Jardine's remarkable declaration that he saw little reason for troubling Parliament to relieve the scruples of persons like Mr. Truelove, as he had met with but one person who had confessed to them within his experience. Can he be ignorant that only one similar instance before the present (that of Mr. Commissioner Ryland) has occurred in which the bench has not insulted the objector, and the press denounced him as one who, in pursuit of an infamous notoriety, obtruded his opinions wantonly upon the court? Even the *Monthly Repository*, in 1834, by the pen of a living and known writer, then signing himself "Junius Redivivus" (a friend we believe of Mr. Jardine), brought this same accusation against Julian Hibbert, whom he pronounced to be "court-published obloquy"—"seeking after martyrdom"—guilty of "a ridiculous bravado." Has Mr. Jardine forgotten what took place lately in Portugal-street, before Mr. Commissioner (Celestine and St. Aubert) Phillips? Of all toleration in this day (we say it advisedly) the very scarcest is that of toleration for him who ventures to respect his own conscience in the matter of an oath on absolute grounds. We have religious toleration, but no intellectual toleration. Every month the provincial newspaper contains instances of judicial outrages upon conscientious free-thinking witnesses. The law is tender, and the general press is silent towards the brothel-keeper's conscience—if he confesses to faith as he panders to obscenity—but the sincere sceptic is howled from court and society. If he take an oath he is denounced as a hypocrite—if he refuse he is denounced for wanton vanity, or a contemptible hankering after notoriety. The knowledge and expectancy of this treatment keeps hundreds of tongues silent in our courts every week of the year, and before every judge and magistrate in the land. It is impossible that one so well informed as Mr. Jardine can be unaware of this—and, knowing it, it is incredible that he should have said what he did. In

the metropolis it has hitherto cost a man his peace and character to raise an absolute secular objection to the oath—in the provinces it would now cost him his connexion in business. The only remedy is to encourage those who have scruples to avow them—to speak them out—to cause them to transpire in every court, and no longer suffer a metropolitan magistrate to impose upon Parliament, as Mr. Jardine's speech is calculated to do. It is well to listen to the voice of the decorous, but there is a decorum of conscience as well as of conventionality. When order, or custom prescribes a deference which deprives a man of his right, custom or order itself is insolent. In defence of any honest right of speech and conscience a true man has often to do that which looks like outrage—looks like courting martyrdom—but whoever puts this construction upon such necessary conduct, himself is guilty of insolence and outrage. He puts down the voice of honest conscience—he hunts out of public courts those who have an unconventional scruple, and then, as Mr. Jardine does, founds an argument against redress on the timid and mischievous silence he has himself imposed. It has frequently been urged that this would be done, and now we find Mr. Jardine doing it. Let all whom it may concern take warning.

The Act of Parliament Mr. Truelove had in his memory is one which has misled many other persons. It is the 1st and 2d of Victoria (c. 105 we think). A Leeds magistrate, at the time of its enactment, was so far confused by it that he permitted Mr. Robert Owen, in a certain Capown case, to make an affirmation upon its supposed authority. But it warrants no such privilege. It merely provides that a man may make oath in that way which is conformable to, or "most binding on his conscience." The secret lies in the word *oath*. The judicial sense of an oath, Lords Kenyon and Tenterden have ruled, consists in imprecation. An oath is an act by which a man imprecates the vengeance of some God upon him in case of his perjury. A man may be Parsee, Mahomedan, or Confucian, but he must believe in an avenging God. An honest use of the judicial term "oath" would exclude the Christian from swearing who believes God is Love.

But in all truth the facts of conscience or religious conviction ought never to be raised on this question. Marriage—quite as serious a matter as a prosecution for petty larceny—is no longer a religious, but a civil ceremony, and so ought the oath to be. At present the oath is a confession of faith, and converts the police-office into a minor ecclesiastical court. If you fall into the prevailing tendency of treating unrecognised convictions as "scruples" of fastidious witnesses, you are in danger of teaching deponents to regard truth itself as a "scruple." In one sense honour, loyalty, and religion, are but "scruples," but with sincere men they are noble "scruples;" and the law that refuses to respect the scruples of serious conviction will demoralise the people. A law which shall permit a solemn affirmation, where the oath is declined, would conduce to the security of public justice and judicial truth. Ios.

A "STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

A SAGE remarked that there was a good deal to be said on both sides of most questions: and, in fact, we have become so enlightened a country because we have always had an Opposition proving that the Ministry is always in the wrong. But is it not carrying the blessings of free discussion to somewhat too loose an extent, to have the two branches of the one Legislature saying the same thing at the same time? Last night was a "double debate" night; and different Ministers were, at the same moment of time, in different places, offering the same defence to precisely the same attack. It's constitutional; but it's silly. The only advantage the country gains is in perceiving how the Commons' overshadow the Lords' House—a Mr. Murrough's opinion being practically more important than the opinion of the great Earl de Trop, who only represents the views of Lady de Trop, who sits in the gallery, carefully taking notice that his brother peers take as little notice as she does of her spouse's sagacity. Yes: to a lover of freedom it is gratifying to observe that a peer is nowhere of so little importance as in the House of Peers. Yes: we have advanced in liberty—the Lords, last night, knew just as little as the Commons of the causes and objects of the war! Delorme was right: ours is the constitution for guaranteeing self-government to a people.

* Our French contemporary, the *Journal des Débats*, which will hardly be suspected of any subversive proposition, in noticing recently Lord John Russell's Bill to amend the Parliamentary Oaths with respect to the Jews, says that real religious toleration cannot be said to exist in England so long as any man whose conscience is challenged to attest itself has not the right to reply, "That is no business of yours."

As a spectacle, which that assembly must have been intended for by the Constitution—*vide* Sir C. Barry—the House of Lords was worth attending last night. The declaration of war is fashionable; and the leaders of the West, concerned for the question of the East, had resolved to practise for the opening of Covent-garden Theatre on Saturday next; and so led London's beauty to their Lordships' galleries in bewildering abundance—bewildering for the Bishops. There were present more ladies than lords: as the policemen phrased it, "hundreds of peeresses were turned away," for want of room. They looked magnificent, in the long gay line of their flashing morning costumes; and but for the veterans, whose heads look like snow scattered over the red benches of the Upper House,—only that the Opposition won't fight—one would have thought of a tournament. Not that there were not young Peers, crowded, like junior forms, behind their veteran uncles and cousins; the junior hereditary legislators always turn up, as they go to the Opera, when there is a novelty, and an excitement to be got out of the privilege for which the "Temple Forum" abuses them, and which they never value till they lose their stomachs, and gain political convictions. There are always young Peers when the ladies' galleries are full; and the ladies' gallery is a capital place for the female aristocracy—for those who have landed their queer fish to moralise over their fate, and for those who have not hooked their Peer to lean over and angle—the present Ministry are such foils to a pretty face. But, beyond the pleasure to be derived from "assisting" in an act of history,—and last night it was history that was acted—the young Peers and all the ladies must have been disappointed. Historical pictures are always dull: the Lords were dull; and they were dull without being quite dignified. Lord Clarendon, in moving the Address to her Majesty, was nervously solemn and respectfully slow—it was an elegy on the peace he murdered; and he was elegiac. Lord Derby, too, in his somewhat botched peroration, appealed with gentlemanly blasphemy to Providence—whom he was obviously referring to, in the Parliamentary sense, as "a person in another place"—to crown with success the English arms—an appeal which he thought could not fail to be responded to, inasmuch as Providence must be gratified to see us in alliance with France. But it was only at the last moment that Lord Derby was as grave as the occasion;—his speech, under the influence of the grand audience—and men speak better as well as fight better in sight of ladies' colours (when they are from a West-end milliner)—was a noisy, buoyant, bullying, Opposition-leader's smart assault on the Minister;—he quoted Shakespeare, and Louis Napoleon's *mots*, (you should Lord Derby's French accent!) and made sparry hits at Lords Clarendon and Aberdeen, all with the slightest possible remembrance that that was not the time when Europe looked to Lord Derby to put "on the gloves," or to take his customary "round or two" before dinner. The ladies laughed immensely at his French and his Shaksperian gustation, and pronounced him "delightful;" and indeed he was very funny when he paralleled the Tamboff blunder by innocently telling England that last session the income-tax was renewed "for only four or five years!" Then Lord Aberdeen did not at all seem overcome by the imminence of the war he has wept to avoid; he was in great spirits, terribly malicious, and consequently rather jovial. As first Minister, the austere intriguer, you would have expected some solemn sobs and hard expressions of horror;—at least you would have expected him to say something appropriate. But Lord Aberdeen, on this night of nights, devoted half an hour, in the most "august" assembly in Europe, to answering a newspaper article! He got up "roars of laughter;" every peeress had her head buried in a cambric shroud; the heels of all the young peers were in the air—at intervals. Yes, Lord Aberdeen was funny and satirical; the fun being in the "you're another" style of retort, and the satire being of that delicate description which consists in telling your opponent that he has told a falsehood. Lord Malmesbury didn't improve on Lord Aberdeen; he was melancholy and mouthy—he can't help that; but he was jocular too, and his joke was in suggesting that the *Press* had bribed Lord Aberdeen to puff it into a circulation,

which again sent the young Peers' heels into the air, and convinced the ladies that Malmesbury was a wag—of the melancholy Jacques sort. Lord Lansdowne finished the procession, and walked across the stage with dignity and without a leer, and was properly cheered by the Duke of Argyll, who is attentive to his seniors, and who wanted to convince his beautiful relatives in the galleries that he was not without a certain function on the occasion. But the astute marquis shirked as adroitly as Lord Aberdeen had shirked any answer to Lord Derby's appeal to the Government—which was an entreaty that Parliament, at the moment of being called upon to sustain a war, should be informed—what that war was for! Does not such a question, so unanswered, suggest the moral of the spectacle? Yet all the actors were very patriotic.

The House of Commons was boundlessly patriotic. Mr. Disraeli who, if he have a sensation, must feel an afflicting contempt for England, talked amid applause of his "patriotism," and of the determination of the gentlemen around him to "rally round the Throne"—some of those gentlemen in white neck-cloths being evidently in a condition to commence immediate practice of circuitous movements. Mr. Bright had pointed out to them that it was real property which would have to pay for the war,—Mr. Bright had said, with no intention of a sneer at Ottoman "worse than savages" (Burke)—that every landed gentleman would shortly have a Turk on his back; and still these gentlemen cheered furiously, deliriously, Lord Palmerston's grossly dishonest misrepresentation and unscrupulous caricature of Mr. Bright's opinion on the war. The House, in short, voted the address unanimously, although nine out of every ten men who are members were convinced by Mr. Layard, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Disraeli, that the war could have been avoided altogether, or should have commenced six months ago,—that is, were convinced that the Government had blundered. Lord John's speech was a dry statement of facts; a newspaper "summary" grandiosed by the lofty mispronunciation of a great official, with a *Vivat Regina* peroration, which reminded one of "Widdicombe;" and Lord Palmerston's speech was neither debating, speech, nor statement—was awkward, ungainly, insignificant, and resultless, and was clearly only spoken as a sham effort to suggest to uninformed Europe and deluded England an impossible unanimity in the Cabinet. Government was attacked, put in the wrong, and Government was not defended, and was left in the wrong, which, however, doesn't matter to the Coalition, while the war is popular, and principles haven't come up.

I understand that Mr. Layard's elaborate analysis of the Cabinet's blundering, consequent upon the Cabinet's discordancies, was very telling; and as Mr. Layard has studied the subject, and is possessed of a monomania malignancy on that subject, Mr. Layard could contrive to make a hit. But what I heard of him suggested that his force depended entirely on his matter, and not at all on his manner. After the practice he has had he ought to have caught some of the House of Commons' style, which is a good, and at any rate a necessary style to success in the House of Commons; but he appears to have got further from it than ever, and his speech last night sounded like a Rigby review from the "Quarterly" read by a Sussex Farmer,—with the Farmer's own ejaculations, at good passages, such as "goodness gracious!" Canning's "good God, sir," was put down; but is "good gracious to succeed it"—are we to have Lord Henry Lennox moving the adjournment of the debate "by Jove, Sir?" Mr. Bright, who has taken an historical position about this war, and who will have all England on his side in six months, made one of the greatest—most sustainably great—speeches I ever listened to. He rose with Mr. Layard, but was not elected by the Speaker; and the result was that he followed Mr. Layard—and Government had to endure, and cower under, two successive terrible blows, both assailants powerful, and both in earnest. But then, Mr. Bright spoke athwart the dinner hour; and though one of the greatest intellects in England, and the first orator in the House, I believe the best position is accorded to him even by those who charivariated Lord Palmerston to a stupid libel on him—he spoke a speech which historians will have to reproduce, and this empire will ere 1855

mournfully echo to about one hundred members. Perhaps it was the better speech for that; he wasn't teased or interrupted; and talked out his robust thoughts with a clearness of language, and an excellence of elocution, which will not be soon forgotten by those who were present. Think of what a thin House it must have been when a Mr. John Ball, a small Irish member looking for a large English place, got a hearing—Mr. Ball being in the attitude of defending the Ministry—standing between them and public opinion—certainly being opaque enough. Think of what the House must have been which gave the Marquis of Granby half an hour. The "Marquis of Granby's head" comes up naturally in war time; and the wood is improved out of which comes carved this epigram—"We are growin' w' hwaive w-war w-with Turkwey, becauth w' hwaive thivil w-war in the Cwabinewt." But the House was cramped when Lord Palmerston was "up;" and was nationally representing in incoherent crowding when Mr. Disraeli (who has taken the *Times*' hint, and got rid of repetitive verbosity) was demonstrating that the Coalition had done it all.

Ministers might, no doubt, have been in a better position last night if they had taken in time Mr. Disraeli's advice to appoint an arbitration for the settlement of their Cabinet squabbles—if, in a word, they could effect the same secrecy with regard to their personal opinions of one another which they secure with regard to what this great country is doing in foreign policy. But their weaknesses entirely arise from their strength: it is because they are so strong that they are so careless. We all know now, thanks to Mr. Disraeli's attentive guidance of public perceptions, that all the Ministers are at sixes and sevens, particularly sevens, and the laugh, no doubt, is rather with the malignant Bedouin Jew gentleman whom the Coalition conquered out of the government of this Anglo-Saxon and excruciatingly Christian land. But we all know that the Ministry is perfectly safe, nevertheless: we laugh at it because it can afford to be treated with disrespect. Lord Aberdeen indicates such an intense abhorrence of any one resigning, that we may be sure he has no thought of that irrational proceeding himself; and as long as Lord Aberdeen chooses to stay in Downing-street he will find some sort of Coalition ready to sink their differences for 5000*l.* a year each, and to go back—whenever they go through the form of resigning—on the grounds of patriotism—such as Mr. Baines—think of Mr. Baines being missed!—has made such use of, amid "loud cheers." Mr. Disraeli, who is leading a guerilla party just now, may now and then pick off a stray straggler, and render individuals ridiculous; but that sort of fighting does not destroy, and hardly harasses, a strong army—which the Coalition is. It would be just as well if so strong a Government was not beaten three times in two months by a Mr. Thomas Chambers, and if such miserable episodes, as that which has enabled Opposition spite to elevate a fourth-rate subordinate like Mr. Baines into a day's importance, were avoided. It would be just as well if Lord John Russell and Mr. Gladstone did not give the House distinctly contradictory advice on the one evening, as they did on Tuesday, when Lord John asked the House to reconsider the order for the Convents Inspection Committee; and when Mr. Gladstone warned the House not to do anything so unusual as rescind such an order. It would be just as well, in short, if individuality were suppressed for what the populace terms the good of the country, and if, in this Government by departments, there was in each department less of that dangerous but conscientious commodity termed zeal. The Government has got into a mess this session, simply because it did not detect that the national tendency, out of which the Coalition itself springs, is, at present, to have peace and quietness,—more particularly during a war. There is the Reform Bill: there is some confusion about that: and who wants the Reform Bill? There is confusion about Mr. Baines's blundering bill: and why could not that ponderous and useful man have been kept down in his bureau, awing the clerks into careful correspondence by his unlimited look of omniscience and punctual appearance opposite the Horse Guards at nine A.M.? There is to be a defeat on the Oaths

Bill: and who wanted the Oaths Bill? Who wants anything but amusement in the Baltic and the Principalities? On Wednesday there were no Ministers present in the House of Commons: and see the result:—why they did not compromise themselves on the Marquis of Blandford's bill; and the bill was withdrawn. And that shows, of course, that there would be vast public benefit if all the Ministers were always to be out of town. Which Minister gets on easiest? Why, Sir William Molesworth, of course; and that is because Sir William, when in the House, always goes to sleep, and, when out of the House, never goes to his office. Sir William remembers Charles Buller's statesmanlike plan for the government of the Colonies,—a provident neglect of them: and he obviously thinks "Mother country" could get on under the same régime. Indeed, the great "Westminster" article on "Over-legislation" is confidently attributed to him. Catch him bringing in any bill! Mr. Lowe, who sits near him, told Mr. Strutt that Sir William talks in his sleep. What, said Mr. Strutt? "I can't exactly hear it all: but it's something about 'lie on the table.'" That is the position in which he would place all questions of the day.

A Coalition is an invention, in an age of no principles, to carry on the Queen's Government: not to allow reaction, but not to attempt progress,—to keep quiet, and, during a war, to withhold information, and defend the blunders of the admirals and generals. It is more particularly the duty of a Coalition not to meddle with religious matters; and we already see how serious are the consequences of the Government not doing with Mr. Chambers's motion what they did with Lord Blandford's bill. The confusion of Tuesday night was terrible. There was Mr. Bernal Osborne making a violent speech against the committee, and there was Mr. Gladstone shortly following him, and pointing out that the question was not about granting the committee, but of whom it should be composed. It was amusing to hear Mr. Osborne; but Mr. Osborne was, perhaps, wrong to break a silence which has been conspicuously discreet. That is his affair, however, and the Government's; the House was glad to see him on his legs again; the House was sorry that he took office at all, for office makes men wise, and a wit like Osborne is spoiled when he ceases to be reckless. On Tuesday, certainly, he got completely out of the Secretaryship of the Admiralty, and spoke with a joyous swagger and insolent indifference which were charming. It was a scene, his speech, from beginning to end; for this is a Parliament including a hundred or two new men, who only know Bernal Osborne by reputation,—who never heard him till Tuesday night. The smoking-room and the tea-room emptied when the word was passed who was "up," and for an hour he kept a full House alive with delight. He is one of those speakers—Mr. Disraeli is another—who cannot be reported; for he is an actor; and you get no better impression of him by reading his speech than you would get of Charles Mathews if you went to Lacy's and bought a copy of the *Game of Speculation*. Those who have only read his Tuesday's speech will think it exaggerated description to speak of such an address charming the first assembly in the world; but it is, nevertheless, a fact. The House would any day sooner hear Osborne than one of its crack statesmen: indeed, rather than Macaulay. The House is conscientious, and will cheer and counter-cheer a Minister with assiduity: but it is an assembly of average men of the world and boys of the town, and it has a strong taste for being amused. And Mr. Bernal Osborne is amusing;—he is something more,—if he chose, he could be a great Liberal leader,—but he has selected his rôle,—to be amusing. He is amusing because he has studied the House, and knows what amuses it,—acting accordingly. He acts the natural parts;—he is really one of the most careful, but appears a most *degage*, debater,—his manner is rigidly impulsive; and his jokes are elaborately impromptu. His speeches are merely smart conversations; the style is a familiar style:—he takes Mr. Speaker by the button and winks at "out of doors." A satirist should be gentlemanly, but also careless, and Mr. Osborne's satirical speeches are so effective because of the absence of consciousness in his manner. He has been compared to Mr. Disraeli, but there is only such a comparison as there is between the rapier and the broadsword; Mr. Disraeli thrusts, and Mr. Osborne knocks. On Tuesday he rattled terrible jokes over the head of Mr. Newdegate, who looked like a statue getting dusted; and it is noticeable that those who laughed loudest were Mr. Newdegate's friends. It is always effective in the House to ridicule bigotry; for though bigots' votes are given there, there are very few bigots. Free talk to free-thinkers is safe; and Mr. Osborne's hits at Protestants told enormously, both with Catholics and Tories! Perhaps the white neckcloth interest in the county of Middlesex may not appreciate a mem-

ber who shocks T. Chambers, and throws Mr. Lucas, of the *Tablet*, into convulsions of laughter. But Mr. Osborne is bold, and at any rate is fond of being cheered in the House.

Mr. Lucas also made a great speech on the same question, on Thursday. The House is terribly bored with this eternal T. Chambers's business, which is a malapropos business, being an offence to certain fellow-subjects, at a moment when we are advising the Sultan to grant civil equality to his Christians. But the House listened to and admired Mr. Lucas. It is singular how unpopular Irish members are with English members; and it is a fortunate thing for Catholic Ireland that her Parliamentary leader is now an Englishman, and an Englishman who not only does not offend with a brogue, but who is a man of genius and an accomplished orator. It was noticed last session that Mr. Lucas was a Parliamentary success: this session it is observable that he is an accepted House of Commons' personage,—a man whose speeches are important, and whom it is a matter of House business to listen to, watch, and comprehend. As a Catholic leader in a Protestant assembly, he took up a proper position on Thursday. The wretched crew of Scullys and Fitzgeralds—the genus Irish members,—they oppose the bigots with a whine—or at best with a snarl. Mr. John O'Connell, on Tuesday, appealed to the generosity and justice of the House, as if the House cared for anything but keeping individually its seats; and he assured them, in a wailing whine, that though insulted, his countrymen were of immaculate loyalty—quite ready to "rally round" the throne. Now, Mr. Lucas said on Thursday:—This committee is part of a system: you want to crush and to intimidate the Catholics; but you shall not; we mean to resist you, and we defy you, and we say you shall not stop the progress which our religion is making in your land. That is intelligible; certainly dignified; and by altering the tactics from the defensive to the offensive, Mr. Lucas keeps off and keeps down the sham fanatics and real sycophants of Parliamentary Protestantism. Perhaps one reason why Mr. Lucas is so effective is that he is so vigorously in earnest as a religionist. No one believes that the Scullys go to confession, or that the Fitzgeralds are partial to the society of priests; and hence a disbelief in their vindications of their faith, and a tendency to try and not listen to them when they are up roaring and blundering, and tearing up the English language with the hoofs and horns of their native bulls. They were fearful on Tuesday and Thursday. Vincent Scully addressing "de Ouse" is a terrible spectacle: I would rather see Sinope twice a day. Some men talk against time; on Thursday he talked against eternity. He is a Hudibrastic-looking man, with a Tipperary accent, and suits his manner to his words; and as de Ouse wont listen to him, but moves in and out, and talks, and gossips, and laughs, he lifts his tiny voice high above the incoherent buzz: that makes the House increase its buzz—so that after Vincent Scully has been up an hour, which he always is, he is in full screech, gesticulating like a maniac, and every member talking to every other member is whispering at the very top of their voices,—the general impression on the strangers, consequently, being that Bedlam somehow managed to obtain the educational franchise in the last Reform Bill.

Saturday Morning.

A STRANGER.

Open Council.

(IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.)

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON.

PROPORTIONAL ELECTION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Though various propositions and suggestions for improving our Parliamentary representation have recently been put forth, there is one which I have not hitherto observed to have been submitted, and which, with your permission, shall now be placed before your readers for their consideration: I allude to the principle of *Proportional Election*, which has proved so advantageous in our municipal corporations, and may be deemed equally available for our National Council. At present, a certain fixed proportion of a borough council retires at the appointed time every year, and the several members being re-eligible, are either then re-elected or succeeded by others, so that the business of the corporation is carried on without any interruption. Why should not this system, which is found to work so well in

our civic corporations, be also applied to our State Legislature? One recommendation for its adoption would be the benefit derivable from having a regular fixed period for the elections, instead of the present uncertain and generally inconvenient ones, and the mitigation of the turmoil and irritation usually attendant upon an election extending over the entire constituency. Another advantage would accrue from the continuous uninterrupted transaction of the public business, instead of its being subject to the serious evils and delays arising from the occurrence of general elections, consequent upon changes of Ministry and the demise of the Crown, all which (extra) inconveniences would be avoided on the plan proposed.

Without entering now into the question of the mode of voting—whether it should be by signed papers, collected as in the case of Poor-Law Guardians; whether by means of enveloped tickets, as in the United States; or by the aristocratic yet maligned method of the secret ballot; or *vice versa*, as at present—without now considering the best plan for recording the votes of the electors, it may be sufficient here to state, that the proposition is to elect a certain fixed proportion of the House of Commons at an appointed time every year, and each portion in successive order.

Recently the average duration of our Parliaments has not exceeded five years; therefore, probably one fifth of the members or constituencies might be deemed the right proportion to be appointed; and as the municipal elections are all completed in November, and that month and the one following have usually formed part of the recess, the early part (say the first ten days) of December may be considered the most suitable time for the Parliamentary elections. Thus the entire assembly would gradually undergo a complete change in five years, without any suspension of state affairs, and the varying requirements or desires of the body politic be gradually impressed on their representatives, and manifested in their annual choice of members, without suffering those oscillations which have been so injuriously prevalent.

The proportion of seats to be periodically vacated, and the order of the succession of vacancies, could be arranged by the Legislature, in a special act repealing the Septennial Act. Probably the best way would be to appoint the elections to occur in a sort of alphabetical order, in the list of constituencies of each division of the United Kingdom, or as nearly so as circumstances would permit: thus, if the proportion of yearly vacation decided upon be one-fifth, then those constituencies in England being the first, sixth, eleventh, sixteenth, twenty-first, and so on, in intervals of fifths throughout its alphabetical list of boroughs, &c., should elect representatives on the first occasion of this plan being in operation; and the second, seventh, twelfth, &c., in like order on the second occasion. Any of those disfranchised for bribery, or other reasons, might have their places supplied by new constituencies created by charter from the Crown, after the manner of municipal corporations, established on petition of resident householders, investigated and recommended by the Privy Council.

Indeed, the adoption of this latter suggestion would for ever abolish the need for a periodical Reform Bill, with all its attendant excitement, and would regularly distribute the representative power where it was most required and best administered. All the members would be elected for five years, and the new boroughs thus created would form a supplemental list, and have their elections at intervals of that extent.

The proposal to grant to the Sovereign (at the advice of the Privy Council) power to nominate or incorporate parliamentary boroughs in the same way as municipal corporations are now constituted, is to revert to a very ancient practice, with constitutional guarantees against its arbitrary exercise or abuse; for undoubtedly, in former times, the British monarchs did, on their own "mere motion" (as the lawyers say), command the election of, and summon to their councils, knights and burgesses from whatever city, place, or district they chose; and I do not conceive that any evil would arise from extending to parliamentary representation the principle proved to be so beneficial in founding municipalities. It is owing to accident, rather than choice, that the number of members is now (or should be) 653, and I believe that neither increase or decrease to the extent of a dozen votes would impair the efficiency of the Senate: a fair argument for a gradual increase might, however, be deduced from the progressive augmentation of the wealth, numbers, and intelligence of the people.

Without, however, now dilating further on this matter, I desire respectfully to submit to general consideration the proposition previously mentioned, namely, the electing a fixed proportion of the House of Commons every year, and in regularly succeeding parts, for an appointed term of (say five) years certain. Its discussion may not be inopportune while the new Reform Bill awaits decision.

March 1st, 1854.

ALFRED.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

DICKENS has earned the splendid privilege of exciting a lasting and universal interest in what he writes. It was said, and scarcely without exaggeration, that the death of Paul Dombey was mourned by a nation; and when a writer has made his creations "Household words" and realities to such extent as that, it will be long before the public hears with indifference "DICKENS has commenced a new story." We are telling no reader a bit of news in telling him that this week, in *Household Words*, a new story called *Hard Times* is commenced, which is to continue week by week for five months; but we would whisper to DICKENS the desirability of somewhat increasing the instalments if he wishes his story to produce adequate effect.

It is very much with books as with food—their nutritive value consists mainly in the assimilating power of the recipient. We read, in the laborious course of duty, many books professing to be philosophical and instructive, from which no food whatever is extractable by us; but, on the other hand, many an unpromising volume brings with it material suggesting

"Thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls."

Among the books crowding our table there is *Forster's Pocket Peerage* (published by BOGUE): what, now, could one expect to extract from that? Imagine a reviewer deliberately setting down to the task of reading and reviewing such a book: does it not seem hopeless? Yet even there the hungry mind will find material. We have found something worth communicating; something not in the least anticipated by us a little while ago when Mr. DOUBLEDAY'S *Law of Population* was under our hands. It will be remembered Mr. DOUBLEDAY states it as a "law" that luxury and over-feeding destroy populations, solid and moderate feeding keeps them stationary, under-feeding increases them. He points to the fact that aristocracies and royal families cannot sustain themselves. In our reply we adverted to the fact that many noble and wealthy families had numerous offspring; but we spoke from a general impression, and in turning over the leaves of the *Pocket Peerage* it occurred to us to count the numbers of the various families. We subjoin a few:—

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| The Marquis of Tweeddale | has had 14 children. |
| The Marquis of Westminster | " 13 " |
| Viscount Arbutnot | " 13 " |
| Marquis of Camden | " 12 " |
| Lord Camoys | " 12 " |
| Lord Clonbrock | " 12 " |
| Lord Rathven | " 12 " |
| Marquis of Abercorn | " 12 " |
| Lord Valentin | " 11 " |
| Marquis of Salisbury | " 11 " |
| Duke of Sutherland | " 11 " |
| Lord Wilton | " 11 " |
| Lord Boston | " 11 " |
| Lord Clinton | " 11 " |
| Duke of Rutland | " 10 " |
| Lord Talbot | " 10 " |

It is needless to continue. If luxurious living were the cause of depopulation, as Mr. DOUBLEDAY'S theory requires, these instances of large families occurring in luxurious circumstances would be inexplicable.

The first volume of a work which promises to be of singular importance has just appeared, *L'Histoire Naturelle Générale des Règnes Organiques*, by ISIDORE GEOFFROY ST. HILAIRE, the son of the great GEOFFROY, and himself favourably known as a naturalist and a man of erudition. This volume, which is devoted to Prolegomena, is not in itself of very great interest. The author is out of his proper sphere, and in the discussions on Classification of the Sciences shows less ability than we have been led to expect from his other works. The historical introduction is rapid and brilliant. But—and the point is worth noting—M. ST. HILAIRE not only follows the track of vulgar error in attributing to BURROX the phrase "*le style est l'homme même*" (which our readers may remember we recently showed to be utterly inaccurate), but actually refers to the place and the page of BURROX where that sentence is said to occur—but does not!

Among the curious facts noted by ISIDORE ST. HILAIRE is that not a single mention is made of the pig, the cat, the fowl, and, still more surprising, even the dog, in *Genesis*; the ass, the goat, the bull, and the camel are mentioned in every page after the journey of Abraham into Egypt; but of the other domestic quadrupeds only the horse is named, and it only twice in the history of Joseph. Not only is this absence of man's companion, the dog, surprising when we read so many pastoral narratives, but it would seem as if the dog had been absolutely unknown to the Jews of that period, since his existence is in no way indicated, and even in the triple list of animals in *Leviticus*, which classes the pure and impure animals, no mention of the dog is made.

RUSSIA AND SIBERIA.

Travels in Siberia. By S. S. Hill, Esq. Two vols. Price 24s. Longman and Co.
Russia. Abridged from the French of the Marquis de Custine. (Forming Parts 57, 58, 59, of "The Traveller's Library.") Price 3s. Longman and Co.

MR. HILL took a three years' journey round the world, and, unlike other travellers, instead of fatiguing the public with a Narrative of all his journey, selects that portion of it which relating to countries little known may reasonably be supposed to excite the greatest interest. He starts from Moscow to Nini Novgorod, touching, therefore, but slightly on Russia and the Russians—enough, however, to show that he by no means adopts the general impressions respecting things Russian, as may be gathered from this passage:—

"We had, previously to the journey we had undertaken together, severally visited the great capitals, as well as some other towns of the empire, and we had now seen many of the villages. We had mixed more or less with the inhabitants everywhere, and had had the opportunity of observing something of the character and manners of the people, and of comparing these with such as we had observed among the people of the other nations of Western Europe. To express our impressions in a few words, it must suffice to say, that we both quitted Russia Proper with high opinions of two out of four classes of the people with whom we had come the most frequently in contact, or with whom we had had the best opportunity of associating, and with the reverse impression of the remaining classes. The Russian educated gentleman, and the *myik* or peasant, had by their suavity and politeness, however differently these were displayed, wherever we met them, and in all transactions we had had with them, equally gained our regard and esteem. But of the inferior classes of the commercial part of the population, and the under classes of the *chionniks* or officials generally, we unwillingly entertained the most unfavourable impressions. Nevertheless, the good elements are so predominant in the proper Russian character, as it may be perceived from the conduct of the peasant, whose most conspicuous qualities are, piety, loyalty, fidelity, hospitality, quickness, and everlasting good humour, and are so deeply seated, that we may hope, as an accomplished education has finished the gentleman, some improvement in the adaptation of the education of the other classes, may effect great and early changes in their manners also, and in their moral character. It is, however, at present said, and I am persuaded, with good reason, that such knowledge as these classes have been able to acquire, has hitherto tended rather to corrupt than improve both their manners and moral conduct, and become a positive evil instead of a blessing to themselves and all their fellow subjects."

This testimony is worth attending to, for it comes from a sensible man. The whole book proves Mr. Hill to be a sensible man; but let us add, it also proves him to be somewhat dull, not merely in the literary sense, but also in the want of that quick sagacity in observation, and vivid power of interpreting social aspects, which make the lively and trustworthy traveller. Still, we repeat, the testimony of a man so sensible and so honest is worthy of attention. If Russia can so impress him, it will so impress others; and if strangers can be thus impressed, we may learn how Russians themselves, born and reared amid the system, may without any hypocrisy uphold it.

To those who read the lively, searching, and profoundly discouraging work of the Marquis de Custine on Russia, some such counterpoise may be necessary. Although we think the Marquis nearer the truth than Mr. Hill, and although we rate his sagacity far higher, it is yet clear to us that he has viewed Russia with a Frenchman's eyes, and exaggerated the evil, because the evil would, to a Frenchman, be so great.

To return to Mr. Hill. His course lay through Kazan, the Ural Mountains, Neviansk, Ikaterinburg, and Tomsk, to the border towns of Siberia and China on to Kamschatka. A better eye would have observed things of lasting interest on this route. It must be confessed that he has not made the most of his opportunities, and what with the absence of picturesque power, and deficiency in the graces of style, his Narrative is somewhat languid. None of the scenes stand out before the eye. None of the characters leave a vivid trace on the memory. It is only the novelty of the ground which induces us to travel over it with him. That, however, does suffice to lure us on.

We had marked several passages for extract, but can only find room for these:—

"GOOD TRAITS IN THE RUSSIAN RELIGION."

"One of the first things that strikes a Protestant stranger after his arrival in Russia, is the great tolerance, not only of the state, but even of the clergy and people, whether towards foreigners, or towards the different sects within the country. In a single street in the modern metropolis, and that too in which he finds the much-frequented Cathedral of Kazan, he may enter a Lutheran church, a Romish church, one belonging to the Sunnites, another to the Schütes, an Armenian church, and, at least, two more of the very names of which he perhaps never heard before. But, besides these, he may find many other churches of other sects, in the different parts of the town, including, of course, an English church."

"The next advantage of the Russian Church over the Italian, is the performance of the divine offices in a known tongue, the Slavonic, which, though it may at this day be considered by many as at least a half-dead language, is nevertheless better than the Latin, on account of its being still intelligible to the classes that most need instruction."

"The reading of the Scriptures, both in private and in public, the former of which the clergy rather recommend than discourage, may also be considered among the advantages of the Russian Church."

"Certain restrictions, however, are conjoined with this privilege, though not every one even among ourselves, perhaps, will differ from the Russian clergy concerning the value of these. By the Russians, it is deemed improper that girls at too tender an age should be acquainted with the history of vices and crimes found in the Old Testament more especially, but also in the New. All of the delicate sex, therefore, are restricted, until they attain the age of thirty, from acquiring any other knowledge of the sacred writings, than such as they may obtain from passages that are read in the churches, and from the portions that appear in certain authorised publications."

This latter trait seems to us worthy of universal imitation. What will the Calvinists say to the views of—

"A RUSSIAN PHILOSOPHER."

"The opinions that our alternately gay and grave philosopher expressed, which most attracted my attention by their seeming originality, were concerning the improvement of the social state generally among mankind, and concerning that great stumbling block to moral philosophers, the existence of evil, and upon the relation of what passed in this life to that which we trust we shall enjoy hereafter."

"Upon the first mentioned of these subjects, that of our social condition, he was of opinion that the imperfections in our institutions were in a great measure owing to the image which even good men, as a means of restraining vice, continually seek to impress upon the minds of the multitude, concerning the Creator, upon whom, whether taught or untaught, all feel they depend and alone worship. He thought that by so frequently showing the Deity in his anger, and which was always in a picture so much clearer and more definite in allusion to the next state, than that in which his beneficence was made to appear, the spirits of men were depressed, their hearts hardened, and their disposition subjected to ill-temper and moroseness, from which proceeded half those vices and errors among us, which no regulation of our social institutions could cure. Whereas he thought, that if the instructors of the multitude in all lands, under every system, would show that the true motives to a good life should be gratitude and not error, and if they would dwell more upon the rewards of virtue, and upon the delight attending a good conscience, that all men in every condition of society would not only be better, but also more easily governed, and that all their institutions would proportionally improve."

"THE BATH IN RUSSIA."

"The bathing-rooms in all the public baths were, until very lately, common to both sexes; but by an order from the government, the sexes are now separated, and each has one large room apart. But this very commendable attempt to introduce a degree of decency unknown before, has not quite established the principle. In the general apartment into which we first entered, many of both sexes were waiting to enter two crowded bath-rooms; and the scene already presented sufficient proof that the letter of the order alone was yet unaccompanied with, or perhaps understood. About a dozen of the coarser sex were seen, dimly, however, through a dense mist, some passing to and fro, and others sitting upon benches by the walls, all quite in the independent state of nature, and, about as many of the fair sex in a condition almost equally independent, yet not ashamed, or apparently in the least degree conscious of any indecency whatsoever. We were, however, in an atmosphere in which clothes were scarcely supportable, and which made us soon put off the greater part of our own."

"Habit reconciles us to almost everything. Indeed, there was so much bustle and appearance of business in procuring tickets for admission into the bathing-rooms, from an attendant who stood within a counter, upon which a small lamp was burning, and with the entrances and exits of bathers and attendants, that the scene was more calculated to remind us of cases and positions in which we are sometimes placed by necessity, where the mind is too much occupied, perhaps by some work of charity, to leave room for niceness in its perceptions, rather than presented the character which description is apt to impress."

"After having cast off almost all our remaining clothes, which was absolutely necessary before we proceeded further in our investigations, both on account of the state of the atmosphere, and the dashing of water in all directions within the baths which we were about to enter, we were led by an attendant into an apartment full of bathers, where we found ourselves in an atmosphere at a temperature between forty and forty-five degrees of Réaumur, as the usual heat, and in the midst of figures still dimly seen through the mist, which was here doubly more dense than that in the outer chamber, and in such a scene of confusion, that it was not until we had nearly reached the termination of the long room, crowded with bathers on both sides, that we were aware of what now appeared—that we were breaking the letter as well as the spirit of the new law, and parading about among the daughters instead of the sons of the land. Upon this discovery, however, we made our retreat."

"We took after this, a little more minute survey of the apartments that it was lawful for us to enter. But instead of attempting any further description of the scene within the common bathing-rooms, I shall state more exactly the manner in which the private bath which I took was administered; and when it is remembered that the same process is in action upon sixty or seventy bathers at the same time in the public bath, the scene there will be easily conceived."

"We had not to leave the public bath-house to find private baths, there being several passing good within it; and we each now chose his own room, and entered, accompanied by an attendant, which is indispensable. In that which I chose, I found an anteroom used for the purpose of undressing. Here I observed the thermometer was at thirty-eight degrees of heat. But upon opening the door, and entering the proper bathing-room, where the temperature was at forty-seven degrees, I found the heat almost insupportable. At the moment of meeting this atmosphere, the respiration became sufficiently difficult to be slightly painful. But this effect of the sudden change passed away as the perspiration increased; and I afterwards felt no inconvenience when the heat was augmented to fifty degrees."

"Upon one side of the room, two large wash-tubs were standing beneath two enormous metal cocks; and, upon the other, there was a stove fixed in the wall. The process commenced by the bather placing himself standing in a shallow tub, which is filled by the attendant with water mixed to an agreeable temperature. The attendant then proceeds to pour quantities of water over the head of the bather, and next to rub his body with dried grass. After this has been a little while persevered in, the bather is placed, sitting, upon a bench; and the perspiration now runs down the body in streams. But the rubbing is still persevered in for about ten minutes longer. The next step is an exposure to the contrary extreme, which is not the most agreeable part of the process. It is now necessary for the bather to mount to a bench about four feet high; and while he is seated here, a bucket of icy cold water drawn from the second cock is dashed against his back. The effect of this is to start the whole vital frame, as if the electric spark had passed through the body, from which now proceed fresh floods of perspiration more profuse than ever."

"The next step is scarcely less severe, and again in the opposite extreme. Water is now thrown into the metal stove, from which you are not far distant, and from which instantly issues out a hot vapor with such force, that it is especially necessary to have the back turned to receive it, and at the same time to shut the eyes. Lastly, the bather mounts to a bench considerably higher than that upon which he has hitherto been sitting, in search of still greater heat; and the attendant, now armed with a birch bough, on which the dried leaves are preserved for the purpose, proceeds to a thorough sweeping or brushing of the bather, rather than rubbing, which appears to apply friction enough to restore the circulation, which by this time has become languid, upon the outer parts of the body."

The publication of the Marquis de Custine's book, in the present cheap abridgment, is well-timed. No work in our day has attained such celebrity on this subject. It made the Emperor and the Russians wild with indignation. The high, social, and literary position of the author, his known and avowed Aristocratic principles, his reception in Russia where everything was done to impress him favourably, made the appearance of a work so damnatory of the Russian system a terrible and unpardonable offence. In turning over its pages once again, again we are struck with the clear vivacity of insight and of representation which distinguishes this work from the thousand and one books written about Russia; and if some deduction is to be made from its oneness, that deduction is more relative than absolute—more a question of details than of principles.

STATE OF RELIGION IN ENGLAND.

Census of Great Britain, 1851. Report on Religious Worship.

The Pentateuch; or, Five Books of Moses. With Notes Critical, Practical, and Devotional.
By Rev. Thomas Wilson, M.A. Price 20s. John Chapman.

THESE two works, especially the first, furnish the calm spectator with curious speculations on the state of Religion in our country. The Report by Mr. Horace Mann is a masterly one. It first sketches rapidly the progress of Christianity in England till the Revolution, when the Established Church finally settled itself upon its present basis. It then gives an impartial statement of the doctrines held by the thirty-five different churches; and proceeds to estimate the "Spiritual Provision and Destitution," i. e., how many persons there are wanting seats in churches, and how many seats for the persons.

Our first remark on the information of this Report is on the fact that, while in all other things the "wisdom of our ancestors" has been profoundly modified before reaching us—while our science, our politics, our customs, our social relations, our ideas on all subjects have undergone such changes, the Church retains the doctrines and polity of the Revolution:—

"The Revolution settled the Established Church upon its present basis. Several alterations have, indeed, been since effected in its relative position towards other sects; but not the slightest change has been effected in the Church itself, in its doctrines, polity, or worship. The principal effect of the Toleration Act was on the character of the Church as a national establishment. Before this statute, no discrepancy was deemed conceivable between the Church and the community: the one was looked upon as altogether co-extensive with the other. To dissent from the belief or mode of worship sanctioned by supreme ecclesiastical authority was much the same as to rebel against the civil power; and all who placed themselves in this predicament were either to be brought, by fines and other punishments, to yield conformity, or, if intractable, were to be burnt or banished, and the absolute identity of Church and Nation thus restored. The Toleration Act in part destroyed this theory. The Episcopal Church was considered 'national,' as being recognised as orthodox by national authority—endowed by law with the exclusive right to tithes and similar involuntary contributions—gifted with a special portion of the State's support—and subject generally to the State's control; but those who differed from her creeds and formularies were allowed, while aiding to support the legal faith, to worship in the way they deemed most scriptural and proper, subject for a time to some disqualifying statutes which have gradually been repealed or modified."

Do you wish to know why the Church has been able thus "to stand upon the ancient ways," while the age was hurrying on? She had adroitly erected certain "safeguards"—as may be read in the following:—

"The chief disabilities which, for the safeguard of the Established Church, are still imposed on other bodies, are the following:—all persons holding certain responsible civil and military offices, and all ecclesiastical and collegiate persons, preachers, teachers, and schoolmasters, high constables, and practitioners of the law, are requested to promise, by oath or affirmation, allegiance to the Crown, and acknowledge its ecclesiastical supremacy, and also to abjure allegiance to the descendants of the Pretender, and to maintain the Act of Settlement.—No Dissenter can hold the mastership of a college or other endowed school, unless endowed since 1668, for the immediate benefit of Protestant Dissenters.—All meetings for religious worship of more than twenty persons besides the family, if held in a building not certified to the Registrar-General, are subject to a penalty of 20*l*.—Every person appointed to any office, for admission to which it was necessary under the Test Act to receive the sacrament according to the custom of the Church of England, is to make a declaration 'upon the true faith of a Christian, that he will never exercise any power, authority, or influence obtained by virtue of such office, to injure or disturb the English Church or its bishops and clergy.' ('Stephen's Commentaries,' vol. iii. p. 108.)—Mayors or other principal magistrates, appearing at any Dissenting place of worship with the insignia of office, are disabled from holding any official situation."

As far as loaves and fishes can control convictions, our Established Church has formidable "safeguards." Nevertheless, thirty-five churches—not to mention the members of no churches—testify to the stubborn independence of the human mind. There are vast numbers who secede from the Church, joining other religious communities; there are also vast numbers who hold aloof in doubt and indifference: out of ten millions of those who are physically able to attend divine service, it is found that five millions stay away! The Report says:—

"The most important fact which this investigation as to attendance brings before us is, unquestionably, the alarming number of the non-attendants. Even in the least unfavourable aspect of the figures just presented, and assuming (as no doubt is right) that the 5,288,294 absent every Sunday are not always the same individuals, it must be apparent that a sadly formidable portion of the English people are habitual neglecters of the public ordinances of religion. Nor is it difficult to indicate to what particular class of the community this portion in the main belongs. The middle classes have augmented rather than diminished that devotional sentiment and strictness of attention to religious services by which, for several centuries, they have so eminently been distinguished. With the upper classes, too, the subject of religion has obtained of late a marked degree of notice, and a regular church-attendance is now ranked amongst the recognised proprieties of life. It is to satisfy the wants of these two classes that the number of religious structures has of late years so increased. But while the labouring myriads of our country have been multiplying with our multiplied material prosperity, it cannot, it is feared, be stated that a corresponding increase has occurred in the attendance of this class in our religious edifices. More especially in cities and large towns it is observable how absolutely insignificant a portion of the congregations is composed of artisans. They fill, perhaps, in youth, our National, British, and Sunday Schools, and there receive the elements of a religious education; but no sooner do they mingle in the active world of labour than, subjected to the constant action of opposing influences, they soon become as utter strangers to religious ordinances as the people of a heathen country. From whatever cause, in them or in the manner of their treatment by religious bodies, it is sadly certain that this vast, intelligent, and growingly important section of our countrymen is thoroughly estranged from our religious institutions in their present aspect. Probably, indeed, the prevalence of infidelity has been exaggerated, if the word be taken in its popular meaning, as implying some degree of intellectual effort and decision; but, no doubt, a great extent of negative, inert indifference prevails, the practical effects of which are much the same. There is a sect, originated recently, adherents to a system called 'Secularism,' the principal tenet being that, as the fact of a future life is (in their view) at all events susceptible of some degree of doubt, while the fact and the necessities of a present life are matters of direct sensation, it is therefore prudent to attend exclusively to the concerns of that existence which is certain and immediate—not wasting energies required for present duties by a preparation for remote, and merely possible, contingencies. This is the creed which probably with most exactness indicates the faith which, virtually though not professedly, is entertained by the masses of our working population; by the skilled and unskilled labourer alike—by hosts of minor shopkeepers and Sunday traders—and by miserable denizens of courts and crowded alleys. They are unconscious Secularists—engrossed by the demands, the trials, or the pleasures of the passing hour, and ignorant or careless of a future. These are never or but seldom seen in our religious congregations; and the melancholy fact is thus impressed upon our notice that the classes which are most in need of the restraints and consolations of religion are the classes which are most without them."

Explain this phenomenon how you will, there is no getting over the fact that the Church of England, as well as every other Church, is not the Temple of a national faith. Five millions are indifferent or incredulous. Five millions have no faith, or a faith which is adverse to that taught in churches. At no previous period in the history of the world could the same phenomenon have been signalled. Believing as we do that no durable national life can exist without a national faith, that no permanent policy can grow out of shifting and dissident creeds, the spectacle of England in its multitudinous sects and dissidences is somewhat alarming. The ray of hope which gilds the future comes from the increasing tolerance which teaches men the moral strength of the fundamental position of Protestantism—liberty of thought. The right of private judgment—that is to say the right which every free soul has to interpret for itself what is the meaning it will put into religious formulas—has already separated believers into thirty-five distinct sects, not to mention minor differences. These sects all hate each other we fear with very Christian hatred; but each grants to each the right each claims. There is a circle, however, within which the right is permitted; beyond, the right is indignantly denied. Men may differ and squabble over particular texts, but they must not exercise their private

judgment on the whole; what is true of the particular is not true of the whole. Thus, when conscientious thinkers, like the Reverend Thomas Wilson, come forward with their interpretations, they only gain respectful hearing from the very liberal. We have, however, so often argued this point that it need not be re-opened now. Having indicated it, we refer our readers to the new Commentary which the Reverend Thomas Wilson and his coadjutors have published "in frank but respectful antagonism to the Lutheran and Calvinistic theologies of the Middle Ages, no less than to the Patristic Scholasticism of an earlier period." He records his conviction of the "unrighteous risk of much longer holding out the dilapidated citadel of Bibliotrary against the besieging forces of sense and soberness that still offer it honourable terms. It is in opposition to earliest and most cherished associations that I am at length religiously driven, in years of maturest manhood, to centre all clerical hope in the anticipation of a really Catholic Church, finally exchanging the cramped dogmatism of human Traditions for the ever-expanding Revelations of Divine Truth, as now and henceforth providentially unfolding themselves to the lay intellect of the world we live in." Especially we refer the reader to the Introduction on the Letter and Spirit of Scripture. The Commentary itself, amidst much that is admirable, contains many statements that seem hazardous and questionable; but it will make the reader think.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

- Jerome Cardan. *The Life of Girolano Cardano, of Milan, Physician.* By H. Morley. 2 vols. Chapman and Hall.
- The Poetical and Dramatic Works of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Bart.* Vol. V. Chapman and Hall.
- The Potiphar Papers.* Sampson Low, Son, and Co.
- Doine; or, The National Songs and Legends of Roumania.* By E. C. G. Murray. Smith, Elder, and Co.
- Memoirs of Thomas Chalmers, D.D., LL.D.* By his Son-in-law, the Rev. W. Hanna. T. Constable and Co.
- Definitions in Political Economy.* By the late Rev. T. R. Malthus. With Notes by John Simpkin and Marshall.
- A Treatise on the Derbyshire Mining Customs and Mineral Court Act, 1852.* By T. Tapping, Esq. Shaw and Sons.
- Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatan.* By the late J. L. Stephens. Revised by F. Catherwood. Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.
- Lays of the Hebrews, and other Poems.* By Mary Bann. J. Masters.
- Claudius Ptolemy and the Nile.* By W. D. Cooley. J. W. Parker and Son.
- The Ballad of Babe Christabel: with other Poems.* By Gerald Massey. Second Edition. D. Bogue.
- An Historical Review of the Reign of the Emperor Nicholas I.* Translated from the Russian of Ustrialoff, by W. Roberts. J. Madden.
- An Apology for Hebrew Prophecy.* By Omicron. Holyoake and Co.
- Working Women of the Last Half Century.* By C. L. Balfour. W. and F. G. Cash.
- Papery in the First Century; or, the Second Epistle General of St. Boniface.* Part I. Trübner and Co.
- The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.* By Edward Gibbon. With Notes by Dean Milman and M. Guizot. Edited, with additional Notes, by William Smith, LL.D. Vol. II. John Murray.
- Critical and Historical Essays, contributed to the Edinburgh Review.* By the Right Hon. Thomas Babington Macaulay, M.P. (Part II. People's Edition.) Longman and Co.
- A Familiar History of Birds.* By the late Edward Stanley, D.D., F.R.S., Lord Bishop of Norwich. Sixth Edition. John W. Parker and Son.
- The English Cyclopædia.* Conducted by Charles Knight. Part XI. Bradbury and Evans.
- Collected Edition of the Writings of Douglas Jerrold. (Plays.)* Part XL. Punch Office.
- Types of Mankind; or, Ethnological Researches, based upon the Ancient Monuments, Paintings, Sculptures, and Crania of Races.* By J. C. Nott, M.D., and George R. Gliddon. Trübner and Co.
- An Account of the Progress of the Expedition to Central Africa, performed by Order of Her Majesty's Foreign Office, under Messrs. Richardson, Barth, Overweeg, and Vogel, in 1850 to 1853. Constructed and Compiled by Augustus Petermann, F.R.G.S.* E. Stanford.
- The Midshipman; or, Twelve Years at Sea.* By the Rev. F. W. Mant, late R.N. G. Routledge and Co.
- Sir Rowland Ashton. A Tale of the Times.* By Lady Catherine Long. G. Routledge and Co.
- Behind the Scenes. A Novel.* By Lady Bulwer Lytton. 3 vols. Charles J. Street.
- Jane Rutherford; or, the Miners' Strike.* By a Friend of the People. Clarke, Beeton, and Co.
- A Plain and Easy Account of the British Ferns.* Robert Hardwicke.
- The London Pulpit.* By James Ewing Ritchie. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.
- Poetical Works of William Couper. (The Annotated Edition of the English Poets.)* Edited by Robert Bell. Vol. I. John W. Parker and Son.
- The Chemistry of Common Life.* By James F. W. Johnston, M.D. Nos. 4 and 5. William Blackwood and Sons.
- The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.* By Edward Gibbon. Vol. III. Henry G. Bohn.
- The Bank Charter Act in the Crisis of 1847, with an Examination of certain Passages in Mr. Disraeli's Life of Lord George Bentinck.* Richardson, Brothers.

- The British Quarterly Review.* Jackson and Walford.
- The Newcomes.* No. VII. Bradbury and Evans.
- Handley Cross; or, Mr. Jorrocks's Hunt.* Part XIII. Bradbury and Evans.
- Chambers's Repository of Instructive and Amusing Tracts.* W. and R. Chambers.
- Chambers's Journal of Popular Literature, Science, and Arts.* Part III. W. and R. Chambers.
- The Dublin University Magazine.* James McGlashen.
- The National Miscellany.* No. 1, Exeter-street.
- The Illustrated London Magazine.* Part X. Piper and Co.
- Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.* William Blackwood and Sons.
- Fraser's Magazine.* John W. Parker and Son.
- The Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology.* John Churchill.
- Bentley's Miscellany.* Richard Bentley.
- Monthly Review.* Piper and Co.

The Arts.

THEATRICAL NOVELTIES.

THIS week there have been two novelties, but I have not seen them; kept away by the Destinies—i. e., Bile and Blighted Affection.

The first of these unseen attractions is *Married Unmarried*, a drama at the PRINCESS'S, without Charles Kean. It is a version of *La Grand Breche*, which is founded on a novel all readers of Balzac know well. The adapter has, I am told, rendered it "moral" to suit the pit.

The second novelty is a farce at the ADELPHI, on the latest coxcomby, *The Moustache Movement*; as I never gave in to the coxcomby of wearing moustaches, I shall be able to laugh at this farce (if funny) without a twinge of remorse.

Instead of laughing at farces, I have been "improving the shining hour," as you will see if you read the next article.

THE ORPHIC FRAGMENTS.

At last I have read those oracular manuscripts obligingly forwarded by my philosophic admirer Cincinnatus Biggs, U. S. I say "read," as to mastering them, C. B. informs his readers in a preface (or in his lofty language "the Proem"), that "years of meditation will barely suffice to apprehend what years of meditation have excogitated," and you will not be surprised if I am at present somewhat in the dark.

A curious collection it is this pile of papers: scraps of verse, groups of aphorisms, fragments of essays, nowhere anything pretending to be complete. The very titles are what the critics call "quite refreshing." Thus I find one bundle of papers labelled "*Nature: an oration*;" another—and this is perfect—"God: a fragment;" a third is: "*On Intellections*;" a fourth is: "*The Overcoat and Upper Leather:—symbols*."

As an ignoramus I am bound to declare these Orphic utterances profound, magnificent, immense; but not, perhaps, altogether luminous! For instance, he tells us "We should synchronise our existences." Very likely we should; but how? "Some men live life in masses, others in detail. Man is the radius of the Infinite." I never knew that before. Elsewhere he says: "Man is the great Omphalos of the Universe;" which is worth knowing, but as when translated into English, it is simply saying, "man is the great navel of the Universe," I don't see what practical conclusions can be deduced from it. The same remark applies to this: "God is a circle; man an ellipse." This is from a fragment entitled "Geometry of the Infinite," in which there are some things I don't quite understand.

Time and space, the great metaphysical topics, are treated by C. B. with immense superiority in his fragment *On Intellections*. Thus, he says, "Time is the Phantasm of Eternity—the spectral Now," which strikes me as very imposing; but he is not quite so clear as might be desired on space: "Space," says Cincinnatus, "is the Logos extensive; Eternity the Logos intensive." And I am not quite sure that I follow him when he says that "Being is the differentiation of Nothing—the homogeneous Nothing passes by metamorphic disintegration into the heterogeneity of Being: whence Light and Darkness: whence also the malleability of Light, the solubility of Darkness." I seem better to catch his meaning when he says "Nature is dumb; Philosophy articulate," only it strikes me that his philosophy might articulate a little more clearly.

All the great writers have given their verdicts on Plato and Aristotle; was ever anything profounder than this of C. B.'s? "Plato's mind is archetypal, Aristotle's typical. One carries Synthesis as a flaming torch; the other Analysis as a flaming sword. One illumines, the other cuts. One has Intellections, the other Cognitions. Where Plato knew, Aristotle only cognose." This word "cognose" I take to be an Americanism—the part particle of "cognize;" does it not strike you as quite a novel criticism to say that Aristotle only cognose? This passage, however, is followed by one equally deep but not quite so intelligible. "Type and Antitype legislate the universe. Passion is type; Love antitype." As he says it is so, I am willing to believe it; but what does this mean? "Mathematics is the true mathesis—the protoplast of Being; for Being and Knowing are one." The following passage has enchanted me, though honestly I cannot say that I clearly understand all it means.

"Individuality is precious to all. Mine to me is infinite: hence the sorrowing enfolding of the wings when the soul first descends its exile. For Nature is dumb. She must be animate ere she articulate. Her speech is vain babble: it is all *outwards*. Speech of the soul is *inwards*: a still small voice fluttering over the impalpable abysses of Contrition and tear-wet Remorse. What therefore is Nature to the Soul but a vague *Outwards* that is never a *Homewards*? The Soul has but one *Homewards*, and that is the *Inwards*, the Infinite. Oxydise a metal as you will, you will not make a Diamond, for the Diamond is and cannot be made. So with the Soul. Light is not malleable to the eye, but only to the mind; for what is malleability? Mind rules and reigns. Fact has no existence, but such as is regally awarded it by Mind. Hence the ineptitude of Fact-men. We must synchronise our existences."

Now, beloved reader, I have complied with the request of Cincinnatus Biggs, and introduced the Orphic Fragments to a thinking public; what will the public think of C. B.?

VIVIAN.

HEALTH OF LONDON.

(From the Registrar-General's Return.)

Twelve hundred deaths were registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday, showing a small increase on those of the previous week, when the number was 1188. In the corresponding weeks of 10 previous years the average number was 1124, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1236. The rate of mortality that has prevailed during the last fortnight, is below the corrected average, but does not differ from it to any material extent. No death is attributed to the cholera in the week.

Last week the births of 912 boys, and 893 girls, in all 1805 children, were registered in London. In nine corresponding weeks of the years 1845-53 the average number was 1505.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.160 in. The mean daily reading was above 30 in. on five days of the week; the highest mean occurred on Wednesday, and was 30.361 in. The mean temperature of the week was 40.1 degs., which is 2.1 degs. below the average of the same week in 38 years. The mean daily temperature was more or less below the average on every day of the week except Thursday, and on that day was not above it. The highest reading of the week occurred on Sunday, and was 53.5 degs.; the lowest was 30.5 degs. on Wednesday. The mean dew point temperature was 35.0 degs. The wind blew from north-east in the beginning of the week; on Tuesday changed to north-west, and on Saturday blew from south-west. The rain in the week amounted to 0.17 in., the greater part of which fell on Sunday.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

CHAMBERLAIN.—Feb. 14, at Ahmednuggur, Bombay Presidency, the wife of Lieutenant C. F. Chamberlain, Twenty-sixth Regiment: a daughter.

MCCLIVERY.—Nov. 24, at Wellington, New Zealand, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel McClevery, Deputy Quartermaster-General: a daughter.

SUTTON.—March 28, at 70, Eaton-square, Piccadilly, the wife of J. H. Manners Sutton, Esq., M.P.: a son.

WINDHAM.—March 24, at Myton, Warwick, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Windham, late Coldstream Guards: a son.

MARRIAGES.

BULTEEL—PARSONS.—March 23, at Stoke Church, Devonport, John Bulteel, Esq., of Fleet, Devon, to Euphemia Emily, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Parsons, C.M.G.

GLOVER—AFFLECK.—March 28, at St. George's, Hanover-square, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of London, the Ven. George Glover, A.M., Archdeacon of Sudbury and rector of Southwark, Norfolk, to Charlotte, second daughter of the late Rev. Sir Robert Affleck, Bart., of Dalham Hall, Suffolk, and granddaughter of the late Sir Elijah Impey, Chief Judge in the Presidency of Bengal.

LEEDS—SIMPSON.—March 23, at St. Mary's, Birkenhead, Henry Leeds, Esq., second son of Sir Joseph Leeds, Bart., to Anna Dorothea, second daughter of the Rev. J. E. H. Simpson, M.A., of Drumsnatt Rectory, Monaghan, Ireland.

DEATHS.

JEPHSON.—March 20, in Wimpole-street, Cavendish-square, Lady Jephson, widow of the late Sir Richard Mountney Jephson, Baronet.

OWEN.—March 23, at Whiston Priory, Shropshire, Georgiana Louisa Mary, wife of Captain F. Mostyn Owen, and youngest daughter of the late Lord Berwick, aged thirty-six.

PIGOTT.—March 21, at Clifton, Mrs. Smyth Pigott, of Brockley-hall, and The Grove, Weston-super-Mare, in the county of Somerset.

PORTLAND.—March 27, at Welbeck, Notts, his Grace the Duke of Portland.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

All letters for the Editor should be addressed to 10, Wellington-street, Strand, London.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

The Sixth Article by Mr. James Lowe on the Strikes and Lock-out is unavoidably omitted this week.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, March 31, 1854.

SINCE last week we have had a further fall of more than 34 per cent., and the market looking very gloomy. Russian Fives are 81 to 85; but it is asserted that this stock has been immensely oversold, and that 3 per cent. has in some instances been given to keep open the amount. Two considerable failures in the Stock Exchange have perhaps had the effect of forcing a good deal of stock and shares on the market, and have not tended to improve the general tone. Yet it is difficult for people to believe, even now, in war; for they take into consideration the evident reluctance of our all-talented and overbearing Cabinet to fire one shot in anger. So the Funds are above their real value. Railway Shares are, in several instances, 2 and 3 per cent. below last week's quotation. The New French Loan does not meet with much favour on this side the water. The same may be said of the Turkish Loan; French Railway Shares are much lower; and, indeed, all kinds of investments are looked on doubtfully. Mining Shares very quiet. Colonial Gold have declared a dividend of 7½ per cent.; the shares are still but a premium. Agua Franca have had a slight advance; when the 25 per cent. dividend, which has been so long threatened, is declared, it may send them up to 1 premium; but that which last year would have run shares up to 2 and 3 premium, in the then buoyant state of the market, has but comparative little effect now. Looking still at the magnitude of the stake now being played, and the desperate character of the war—should no unforeseen accident happen to the Czar, and the war continue, with perhaps a reverse or two in the Baltic, we may see Consols at 80—before June. On the other hand, a decided victory either in the East or in the Baltic, or any other momentous, but fortunate contingency, would send them up 5 per cent. before one could get in. There has been considerable reaction again this afternoon through all the markets, and Consols close at 86 to 1, having opened at 85½ to 1.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, March 31.

LOCAL TRADE.—The arrivals of all Grain this week are moderate. The improved feeling we reported on Monday was followed by an advance of 3s. per qr. on Wheat on Wednesday, and a further advance of 3s. is established to-day, making fully 6s. from Monday. The large arrivals of Oats last week are mostly cleared off, and an advance of 2s. is readily obtained from Monday. Barley is also 2s. dearer.

F. O. B.—The market has become so depressed on our side, that a great many of the offers both of Wheat and Oats, which were in hand a fortnight ago, were withdrawn at the close of last week, and much business has thereby been prevented. At the present moment there are few orders to sell in hand. Some sales have been made as follows:—say 61 lbs. red Stettin Wheat 70s. cost, freight and insurance, 62 lbs. Rostock 68s. f. o. b. 40 lbs. Danish Oats 25s. cost and freight. A good many orders have been sent out the last few days for both Wheat and Oats. Barley has commanded less attention.

FLOATING TRADE.—The change in the appearance of our local market has equally changed the minds of holders of cargoes. There is little offer for sale, and of cargoes on passage there are not, we believe, above 300. These, of course, will arrive in about three months, after which this branch of the trade will be pretty nearly at an end, and importers are therefore careless sellers before arrival. A cargo of fine Polish Oats sold at 68s.; one of Taganrog Ghirka same price; 62s. and refused for new Ibrahim. A cargo of new Galatz sold at 72s.

Consols, 85½; 1; Caledonian, 50½; 51 x. d.; Chester and Holyhead, 13, 14; Eastern Counties, 11½; 11½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 54, 55; Great Western, 71½; 71½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 58½; 59½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 93, 95; London and North Western, 93½; 94; London and South Western, 73 75; Midland, 55½; 56; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 28, 28; Scottish Central, 76, 80 x. d.; South Eastern, 50½; 51; South Wales, 30, 32; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 61½; 62; York and North Midland, 43, 44; East Indian, 1½ pm.; Luxembourg, 4½; 5; Ditto (Railway), 24, 24; Ditto, Pref., 1½; Namur and Liege (with Int.), 6, 6½; Northern of France, 27½, 28½; Paris and Lyons, 10½, 11 pm.; Paris and Orleans, 41, 43; Paris and Rouen, 32, 34; Paris and Strasbourg, 26½, 27; Sambre and Meuse, 69, 71; West Flanders, 24, 24; Western of France, 11 pm., 21 pm.; Azua Frías, 4½ pm.; Anglo-Californian, 1 dis., 4 pm.; Brazil Imperial, 3½; 4; John Doherty, 29, 31 pm.; Colonial Gold, par, 1 x. d.; Great Nugget, 4½; Linars, 94, 101 x. d.; Nouveau Monde, par, 4 pm.; Quartz Rock, 4½ pm.; United Mexican, 23, 31; Australasian Bank, 70, 72 x. d.; New South Wales, 35, 40; Oriental Bank, 42, 44; South Australian Bank, 35, 37; Union of Australian Bank, 50, 61; Australian Agricultural, 35, 37; Crystal Palace, 24, 24; North British Australian Land, 4 dis. par; Scottish Australian Investment, 1, 1½ pm.; South Australian Land, 34, 36.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

| | Sat. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thur. | Frid. |
|----------------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Bank Stock | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ |
| 3 per Cent. Red. | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ |
| 3 per Cent. Con. An. | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ |
| Consols for Account | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ |
| 3½ per Cent. An. | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ |
| New 5 per Cents. | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ |
| Long Ans. 1800. | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ | 87½ |
| India Stock. | 225 | 225 | 225 | 225 | 225 | 225 |
| Ditto Bonds, £1000 | 7 p | 7 p | 7 p | 7 p | 7 p | 7 p |
| Ditto, under £1000 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Ex. Bills, £1000 | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p |
| Ditto, £500 | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p |
| Ditto, Small | par | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p | 2 p |

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| Brazilian Bonds | 48 | Russian Bonds, 5 per | 86½ |
| Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents. | 48 | Cents 1822 | 86½ |
| Chilian 6 per Cents. | 49½ | Russian 4½ per Cents. | 74 |
| Danish 5 per Cents. | 87 | Spanish 3½ Ct. New Def. | 10½ |
| Ecuador Bonds | 23½ | Spanish Committee Cert. | 10½ |
| Mexican 3 per Cents. | 23½ | of Coup. not fun. | 25 |
| Mexican 3 per Ct. for | 23½ | Venezuela 3½ per Cents. | 25 |
| Acc. April 12 | 23½ | Belgian 4½ per Cents. | 25 |
| Portuguese 4 per Cents. | 34 | Dutch 2½ per Cents. | 52 |
| Portuguese 3½ per Cents. | 30 | Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. | 81½ |

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.—

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

This Evening will be performed the New Musical Comedietta, called

THE WRONG BOX.

Principal Characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Robinson, Miss P. Horton, and Miss Wyndham.

After which,

TO OBLIGE BENSON.

Characters by Messrs. Emery, F. Robson, Leslie, Mrs. Stirling, and Miss Wyndham.

To conclude with

THE WANDERING MINSTREL.

Jem Baggs.....Mr. F. Robson.

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE.

IN IMPERIAL QUARTS AND PINTS.—BOTTLED by PARKER and TWINING, Beer Merchants, 54, PALL-MALL. Quarts, 2s.; Pints, 1s.; Half-pints (for Luncheon), 3s. per dozen. Also in Casks of 18 gallons and upwards.

We refer the learned to Baron Liebig, the temperate to Dr. Carpenter, invalids to the Medical Profession, and the robust to the best Clubs of London, for the merits of our stock of ALLSOPP'S ALE. The "Thirsty Soul" and "Constant Reader" of the Times we can also satisfy with our Imperial Measure.

ADDRESS—PARKER and TWINING, 54, PALL-MALL.

AMERICAN CLOCK WAREHOUSE,

Embracing every variety of these superior Timepieces, imported directly from our Old Established Factory; all brass works, and warranted to keep correct time. They are sold one-third less than the usual price. Day Clocks from 10s. to 15s.; Eight-Day, 30s. to 35s.; also, every variety of American goods, by LEFAVOUR & Co., 540, New Oxford-street.

AMERICAN PEACHES.—This excellent

FRUIT, perfectly fresh, and of the finest flavour, we are now importing from the United States, hermetically sealed, in jars and cans. Those in jars, preserved in brandy, at the reduced price of 5s.; fresh peaches, in cans, 4s.; spiced, 3s. They will be forwarded to all parts of the country on the receipt of a Post-office Order for the amount. Sold, with every variety of American goods, at the American Warehouse, by LEFAVOUR & Co., 540, New Oxford-street.

DUTY OFF TEA.—On and after the 6th

of April, the prices of all our TEAS will be again REDUCED 4d. per pound.

Strong Congou Tea, 2s. 6d., 2s. 10d., 3s.; former prices, 3s., 3s. 2d., 3s. 4d.

Rich Souchong Tea, 3s. 2d., 3s. 4d., 3s. 8d.; former prices, 3s. 6d., 3s. 8d., 4s.

Best Assam Pekoe Souchong Tea, 4s.; former price, 4s. 4d.

Prime Gunpowder Tea, 3s. 6d., 4s., 4s. 4d., 4s. 8d.; former prices, 4s., 4s. 4d., 4s. 8d., and 5s.

The Best Pearl Gunpowder, 5s.; former price, 5s. 4d.

Prime Coffee, 1s., 1s. 2d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 4d. Prime Mocha, 1s. 4d. Best Old Mocha, 1s. 6d.

Sugars are supplied at market prices.

All goods sent carriage free, by one of our own vans, if within eight miles. Tea, coffee, and spices sent at the carriage free to any railway station or market-town in England if to the value of 40s. or upwards, by

PHILLIPS and COMPANY, Tea Merchants, 8, King William-street, City, London.

A general price-current sent post free on application.

ANOTHER REDUCTION OF FOUR-

PENCE THE POUND IN THE DUTY ON TEA.

In accordance with our usual practice of always being FIRST to give the Public the full ADVANTAGE of every REDUCTION in the value of our goods, we have at once lowered the prices of all our Teas to fullest extent of the REDUCTION OF DUTY; and we are determined, so far as we are able, that the Public shall reap the full benefit of this act of the Government.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------|
| The Best Pekoe Congou | 3 s. 8 | the pound. |
| Strong Breakfast ditto | 3 0 | " |
| Good sound ditto | 2 8 | " |
| Choice Gunpowder | 2 8 | " |
| Finest Young Hyson | 4 4 | " |
| Good Plantation Coffee | 1 0 | " |
| Cuba, Jamaica or Costa Rica | 1 4 | " |
| Choice old Mocha | 1 6 | " |
| The Best Homoeopathic Cocoa | 1 0 | " |

For the convenience of our numerous customers, we retail the finest West India and Refined Sugars at market prices.

All goods delivered by our own vans, free of charge, within eight miles of London. Parcels of Tea and Coffee, of the value of Two Pounds sterling, are sent, carriage free, to any part of England.

CULLINGHAM and COMPANY.

Tea-merchants and Dealers,

27, SKINNER-STREET, SNOW-HILL, CITY.

WILLIAM STEVENS, Sole Agent for

supplying the Public with the celebrated unadulterated BOTTLED ALES, PORTER, and STOUT, brewed by the Metropolitan and Provincial Joint-Stock Brewery Company, submits the following scale of charges for the Company's goods in imperial measures:—

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Ale or Stout | quarts 6 | 0 per doz. |
| Do do | pints 3 | 6 " |
| Do do | half pints 2 | 0 " |

Country orders promptly attended to.—Money orders on the Strand Office.

The same goods are constantly on draught at the Company's Wholesale and Retail Stores,

13, Upper Wellington-street, Strand, London,

Where all orders must be sent to

WILLIAM STEVENS, Sole Agent.

P.S.—A Single Bottle at the wholesale price, and families supplied with the same beer in casks.

EASY CHAIR (in one) BEDSTEAD.

This very portable, light, and durable piece of furniture, made of Wrought Iron, is convertible instantaneously from a Chair to a Bedstead, and vice versa, is made also to form a Couch or Lounger, and will be found invaluable where space and comfort is at once a question of consideration. By members of the Military and Naval Professions, Residents in Chambers, and Travellers, such an article has long been desiderated. Price, complete, with best Hair Cushions, forming also a Mattress, from 72s. WILLIAM S. BURTON has much pleasure in adding it to his already unrivalled assortment of Iron and Brass Bedsteads, to which Goods two of his extensive Show-rooms are exclusively devoted.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has TEN LARGE SHOW ROOMS (all communicating), exclusive of the Shop, devoted solely to the Show of GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY (including Cutlery, Nickel Silver, Plated and Japanned Wares, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, and Bedding), so arranged and classified that Purchasers may easily and at once make their selections.

Catalogues, with Engravings, sent (per post) free. The money returned for every article not approved of.

39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), Nos. 1 and 2, Newman-street, and 4 and 5, Perry's-place.

ONE THOUSAND BEDSTEADS TO CHOOSE FROM.

HEAL AND SON'S Stock comprises a large assortment of handsomely Japanned and Brass-mounted IRON BEDSTEADS, CHILDREN'S CRIBS and COTS of new and elegant designs; MAHOGANY, BIRCH, and WALNUT-TREE BEDSTEADS, of the soundest and best manufacture, many of them fitted with Furniture, complete; and every variety of SERVANTS' and PORTABLE BEDSTEADS. They have also a large assortment of

BED-ROOM FURNITURE,

comprising WARDROBES, both in Japanned Wood and Mahogany, from 4 ft. to 8 ft. long, fitted with every variety of arrangement; DRESSING TABLES and GLASSES, WASHSTANDS, DRAWERS, and every article for the complete furnishing of a Bed Room.

HEAL AND SON'S ILLUSTRATED

CATALOGUE OF BEDSTEADS and priced List of Bedding, containing designs and prices of upwards of One Hundred Bedsteads (representing a stock of upwards of One Thousand), sent free by post.

HEAL and SON, 196, Tottenham Court-road.

OLD PATTERNS BRUSSELS CAR-

PETS.—Families who do not object to patterns of last year's designs, have now an opportunity of selecting from upwards of 1000 pieces of dining and drawing room carpets, at a considerable allowance from the manufacturers' prices. Thus superior qualities (the Comber patterns), original price 4s. 9d. and 5s. per yard, are now 3s. 6d. and 3s. 9d.; three-thread Brussels are reduced from 4s. to 3s. and 3s. 3d. per yard; and several large lots of really good and durable Brussels are to be sold at 2s. 6d. and 2s. 9d. per yard. Tapestry, velvet pile, and Turkey carpets in great variety. Silk, worsted, and cashmere damasks for curtains. Good washing damasks, from 21s. per piece of 30 yards. Patterns forwarded to any part of town or country, and are now on view at the National Linen Company's warehouses, 103, Fleet-street, corner of Farringdon-street, and bottom of Ludgate-hill.

FURNISH YOUR HOUSE with the

BEST ARTICLES.—They are the CHEAPEST in the end.—DEANE, DRAY, and CO.'S FURNISHING LIST OF ARTICLES, especially adapted to the requirements of Household Economy, may be had gratuitously upon application, or forwarded by post, free. This list embraces the leading Articles from all the various departments of their Establishment, and is calculated greatly to facilitate purchasers in the selection of their Goods. It enumerates the different descriptions of Fenders, Fire-irons, Table Cutlery, Spoons, Deanean and Electro-Plated Goods, Tea Services, Lamps, Brass and Copper Goods, Articles in Britannia Metal, Pewter, and Tin. Baths, Brushes, Turnery, &c. &c. Deane, Dray, and Co. (opening to the Monument), London-bridge. Established A.D. 1700.

NOVELTY IN BEDSTEADS.

HAMMOND'S newly-invented ORIENTAL OTTOMAN, a handsome ornament in a room, forms a full-sized bedstead for two persons on a moment's notice; price, mattress complete, 35s. The largest stock of Bedsteads, Beds, Mattresses, and Palliasses in the Kingdom, at HAMMOND'S Bedding Factories, 14, High Holborn, London.

A NEW DISCOVERY IN TEETH.**MR. HOWARD, SURGEON-DENTIST.**

62, FLEET STREET, has introduced an ENTIRELY NEW DESCRIPTION OF ARTIFICIAL TEETH, fixed without springs, wires, or ligatures. They so perfectly resemble the natural teeth as not to be distinguished from the originals by the closest observer; they will never change colour or decay, and will be found superior to any teeth ever before used. This method does not require the extraction of roots, or any painful operation, and will support and preserve teeth that are loose, and is guaranteed to restore articulation and mastication. Decayed teeth rendered sound and useful in mastication.

62, FLEET STREET.—At home from Ten till Five.

RUFURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.**THE MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS**

is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 228, Piccadilly, London.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c. For VARICOSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING OF THE LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 10s. Postage, 6d.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS, 39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), Nos. 1 & 2, Newman-street, and 4 & 5, Perry's-place. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 27. 14s. to 51. 10s.; ditto with ornate ornaments and two sets of bars, 51. 10s. to 121. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to 31.; Steel Fenders from 27. 15s. to 61.; ditto, with rich ornate ornaments, from 27. 15s. to 71. 7s.; Fire-irons from 1s. 6d. the set to 41. 4s. Sylvester and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges.

First—From the frequency and extent of his purchases; and Second—From those purchases being made exclusively for cash.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR

SILVER.—THE REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced twenty years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when PLATED by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

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